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Currency traders dealing in Tokyo yesterday, as the yen plunged to an eight-year low against the dollar.

PA sources:

Arafat to fire Faisal Hussein

In row over use of PA funds

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH
and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat plans to fire Faisal Hussein, the PA minister for Jerusalem affairs, and replace him with Omar Khanb, the PA representative in Jordan, Palestinian sources said yesterday.

According to the sources, a dispute has flared over donations Hussein receives from abroad and uses for the Orient House and other institutions in eastern Jerusalem, instead of handing over the sums to the PA to be included in its budget.

The sources said Hussein, who visited the Gulf states some four months ago, received a large sum of money from Saudi Arabia for the Orient House and activities in other institutions in Jerusalem.

When he returned, Arafat asked Hussein to hand over the check to the PA budget. Hussein complied, but has since insisted on receiving donations in the form of material goods, such as furniture and medical equipment, instead of cash, which has enraged Arafat.

Hussein refused to comment on the report. "I refuse to discuss outside issues raised inside the PA cabinet," he said.

A source at the PA Embassy in Jordan dismissed the report and declined to discuss it further.

"Chairman Arafat is abroad and we have not received any notification of the appointment," the source said.

Meanwhile, Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin yesterday officially rejected Arafat's offer, made earlier this week, to join the PA cabinet.

"It is impossible to join the PA, which complies with the Oslo Accords," he said during a visit to Khartoum, Sudan, adding that he hoped to return to Gaza by the end of the week.

Despite Yassin's declaration, PA Postal Affairs and Telecommunications Minister Imad Falouji called on Hamas to consider Arafat's offer.

Also yesterday the Palestinian Legislative Council decided to postpone until June 25 a no-confidence vote against the PA originally scheduled to take place yesterday.

Lawmakers explained that they wanted to give Arafat time to carry out his planned cabinet reshuffle.

PLC member Hussam Khader, a representative from Nablus, said the planned reshuffle follows pressures from donor countries, which have raised questions about where their funds sent to the PA are actually going.

While pessimistic about the outcome of the planned changes, Khader, who belongs to Fatah, said he hoped no PLC members will join the cabinet and added that some of the candidates that have been mentioned are not linked to the national history of the Palestinians.

He added that he hoped the new cabinet will deal with corruption issues, as well as violations of Palestinian human rights.

Returning to Gaza from Tunis last night, Arafat commented on the refusal of Hamas and opposition parties to join his new cabinet. "Let us wait and see," he said. "It is up to them if they want to join and discuss with us national unity. If they don't want to, it is their right."

World financial markets tremble as Japanese data indicate recession

Jerusalem Post Staff
and news agencies

Stock markets around the world, including Tel Aviv's, took a beating yesterday as the financial world vented its growing pessimism over Asia's economic woes.

The mayhem began with Hong Kong's shares plunging 5.72 percent, in its first opportunity to respond to Japanese data, released Friday, which indicated that the

world's second largest economy is in recession.

Hong Kong's pessimistic trading was echoed in Tokyo, where the Nikkei average shed another 1.4% of its value; in London, where the FTSE index lost just under 1%; in Tel Aviv, where the Maof lost 3.3%; and in New York, where the Dow Jones industrial average sank 2.3%.

US trading was dominated by a feeling that the Asian crisis is likely to sideswipe the earnings of

Oil falls to 12-year low,
Dollar soars to 8-year high,
TASE sheds 3.3%, Page 16

many US multinational companies for a second straight quarter.

Based on early, unofficial results, the Dow Jones industrial average shed 207.01 points, or 2.3%, to close at 8,627.93. It was the fifth worst daily point loss ever

for the Dow. In the broad market, declining issues beat advances by a more than 3-to-1 margin on active volume of 586 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

The Nasdaq composite index fell 29.30 points, or 1.6%, to 1,715.75. Mergers lifted some shares. Bay Networks gained 2-7/16 to 30-3/4 after Northern Telecom announced a deal to acquire the computer networking company. Northern Telecom fell 9-11/16 to 54.

Asian slump weighs on global market

WASHINGTON (The Washington Post) — The Asian economic flu is no longer afflicting the region's Little Tigers alone, and it's looking a lot scarier as a result.

Until recently, the financial crisis that started in Thailand last summer and spread to Indonesia and South Korea was striking only at countries with relatively small economies.

But now, much more important nations are coming under financial strain — and the risks to the global economy are rising commensurately.

While the US is well situated to minimize damage and avert recession, the historic brisk economy that the country is enjoying right now faces a far more uncertain future as the financial turmoil begins to engulf bigger victims.

In Japan, the world's second-largest economy, the yen and the stock market have gone into a tailspin in recent days amid a slew of bad news capped by a government report Friday confirming that a recession is under way.

In China, fears are mounting that slowing economic growth will force the government to devalue the nation's currency in an attempt to make its products cheaper abroad and ring up more export sales.

Fears that that was about to happen helped send currencies and stock prices tumbling last week in developing countries all over the world that compete with cheap Chinese products.

In Russia, a panicky flight by

foreign investors has raised the specter of a collapse in the ruble that could rekindle hyperinflation. Russia's troubles have fueled investor unease over emerging markets, especially in neighboring Eastern Europe.

Policy-makers in Washington and other Western capitals are even more concerned over the geopolitical risks of social and political upheaval in a country with a vast nuclear arsenal.

"We're talking about much bigger economies, and the situation is much more worrisome now," said William Dudley, an economist at investment bank Goldman Sachs & Co. in New York. "Japan has a \$4 trillion economy," he said. "The Korean economy, before the crisis hit there, was about \$485 billion. So this is a particularly dangerous phase, and if there were really to be a second round of crises, it would be much more difficult for it not to spread to Latin America and have a bigger effect on the United States."

Although Dudley and many other economists believe the world economy will continue to grow, given robust expansions in the US and Europe, they said the pace may slow markedly, and the prospect of outright global recession can no longer be dismissed as lightly as it could just a few weeks ago.

"Of course the risk is increasing," said Rudiger Dornbusch, a professor of international economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who spelled out how a disaster might unfold: "In Japan, the stock market crashes. Competitive [currency] depreciation spreads from Asia around the world. There is suspension of debt payments by every emerging mar-

ket economy. Overpriced stocks dive. And everybody says, 'I knew that was going to happen!' — and they start saving frantically."

When consumers save, they deny the economy the stimulus that their spending would give it.

For the US, the danger of a slump is lessened, because inflation is low and the government's budget is in surplus, which means that Washington could readily counter recessionary forces with stimulative measures such as cutting interest rates or taxes.

And so far, the negative impact of the Asian crisis on the US economy has been largely confined to a sharp drop in sales of American goods across the Pacific.

Although that hurts some of the country's most dynamic industries — such as aerospace, telecommunications and information technology — domestic spending has continued to fuel a powerful expansion here.

Japan's economy is more than 1 1/2 times the combined size of its Asian neighbors' economies, and Tokyo is either the No. 1 or No. 2 trading partner of most Asian nations, including China, Malaysia, South Korea and the Philippines.

The reluctance of Japanese consumers and businesses to spend has already hit imports from those countries hard. So in contrast to Mexico, which recovered smartly from its 1995 peso crisis largely by selling into a booming US market, ailing Asian economies are getting no boost from their giant customer.

Indeed, as Japan's currency sinks, it is looming as a sufferer competitor to those economies, increasing the likelihood that their

recessions will be deep and prolonged.

The yen, now down to an eight-year low, has lost seven percent of its value in the last 3 1/2 weeks alone. That poses a competitive threat to US industries: Japanese vehicle exports to the US, for instance, are up nearly 7% over the past year.

For struggling firms in countries such as Korea and Taiwan the problem is even worse, which helps explain why the Korean stock market fell 8% Friday to its lowest level in 11 years.

What makes Japan's downturn even more worrisome is the danger that its falling stock market, which has lost more than a quarter of its value over the past year, will trigger a broader financial implosion.

Japanese banks, unlike banks in most countries, hold huge portfolios of stock as a major part of their cushions of capital, and the lower the depths that the Tokyo market's Nikkei stock index plumbs, the weaker they get.

"This is what we call the Japanese death spiral," said Carl Weinberg, chief economist at High Frequency Economics. "As the Nikkei goes down, it reduces the capital base of the banks."

Then, as banks cut back lending to firms, "businesses fail — which causes stocks to fall, and things spiral down."

All this is prompting Asian officials to become increasingly outspoken in urging Tokyo to embrace a bolder approach.

"We look to Japan to take the lead in revitalizing Asian economies," said Anson Chan, Hong Kong's chief secretary for administration, at a meeting Friday with Washington Post reporters and editors. "The continuing weakness of the yen is very worrying."

Report: Pakistan won't share nuclear technology with Iran

Jerusalem Post Staff
and news agencies

ANKARA — Pakistan has assured Israel that it will not pass on nuclear technology to Iran, Ambassador to Turkey Uri Bar-Ner said in an interview published yesterday.

He told the English-language Turkish Daily News, without elaborating, that Israel had received a "kind of assurance" from Pakistan.

"I hope, and I think, that Pakistan and India will not transfer technology to Iran. But you never know... somebody could smuggle technology," he was quoted as saying.

Israel has repeatedly warned that Iran is advancing its nuclear program. "We have Russia, China, you have North Korea, which has been helping Iran in long-range missiles. It is a serious matter," he

added. Pakistan and India recently conducted a series of nuclear tests, prompting threats of economic sanctions by the US and other major powers.

Jerusalem last month strongly denied allegations by senior Pakistani officials that Israel was involved with India's nuclear tests.

However, Israel and India have been openly expanding their military ties, which are widely believed to have flourished even before the establishment of full diplomatic ties between Jerusalem and New Delhi half a decade ago.

Foreign publications have long claimed that Israel and India have been nurturing a close military relationship, since Indian governments have often been suspicious of the Moslem world.

This shared interest was further boosted following the end of the Cold War, when India's main arms

supplier, the former USSR, dissolved, and its military industries ceased to offer the kinds of easy deals which were previously common.

Predominantly Moslem Pakistan, for its part, has always figured among Israel's diplomatic opponents.

Hopes following the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993 that Islamabad would establish ties with Jerusalem have not been realized. A visit to the region by then premier Benazir Bhutto ended up including Gaza, but not Israel.

Still, due to its close ties to the US, Pakistan has generally been careful not to overstate its anti-Israeli stance.

Beyond these Israeli contexts, experts also stress that Sunni Pakistan and Shi'ite Iran, which share a border roughly the length of the French-Spanish one, are by no means natural allies.

IDF scraps scrambled eggs

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Between salmonella scares and the perpetual bad-cholesterol accusations, eggs have gotten such a bad rap in the IDF that the army has now barred serving them scrambled or sunny-side up.

According to new regulations for army kitchens, soldiers may only be served hard-boiled eggs which have been boiled for at least eight minutes. If the cook is friendly and talented enough, then omelettes

can also still be served on condition they are well done on both sides.

The scare of serving rotten eggs is so acute that the army has also banned mayonnaise spreads and other creams which were not cooked or baked. And any egg not used a week after it is delivered to a unit must be disposed of, preferably in the trash.

The new regulations were initiated by the nutrition department of the IDF's Medical Corps. They are

still not recorded in the surgeon-general's rule book, but they are being passed to all cooks, doctors, and mess officers. Cooks can also continue to use eggs to help coat schnitzels and cook shakshuka and in cakes.

Wrongly prepared eggs have often caused food poisoning in the army. In 1995, Warrant Officer Meir Dahan, 40, died as an indirect result of large-scale food poisoning that struck more than 150 air-men at the Uvda Air Force Base.

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NEWSLINE

What is the significance of the reported silencing of Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at Sunday's cabinet meeting?

The personal relationship between these two gentlemen has been known to be almost non-existent for quite some time and this has now apparently hit a new low. I am not aware of any cases like this in the past, although it should be noted that the openness of government is a relatively new phenomenon. What is new about this is not so much the incident itself, but the fact that it was made public so blatantly and quickly after the event.

Does the incident indicate a problem for both the army and the political hierarchy in terms of the dividing line between security and political issues?

It is certainly very troublesome. In the past, assessments by the chief of staff, for instance over events in Syria or Iraq and their implications for national security, were considered to be neutral areas for professional judgement. In contrast, anything that might be said about the intentions and attitudes of the Palestinians can and is construed as a political statement, perhaps even countering the foundations of government policy, which heightens the sensitivity of the people involved.

It is also troublesome to state that this was a report of military intelligence, because such assessments deal with political matters - for instance in estimating the enemy's intentions.

Has this problem become more acute in recent years?

Ever since the beginning of the Oslo Accords, the military has been used to some extent as a political tool. It has been part of the negotiations. Military intelligence reports have been used to justify this or that position, and the present instance is just another demonstration of just how troublesome the entire situation is.

Is there a possibility that a future chief of staff may now think twice before making a judgment call for fear of being censured by the political hierarchy?

Yes, although it should be noted that the Shahak is on his way out and therefore he can afford to be more blunt perhaps than someone, like the deputy chief of staff, or OC Intelligence, who still have to coexist with the prime minister. The government has to be very careful not to get into a position where the military will tell it what it wants to hear, rather than what the military really thinks. There is a real danger of that, but the prime minister has a point that the military should respect the dividing line between a purely professional judgment and a political one.

For that, the government has to define at any given time what is a political and what is a professional military matter. The definition does not now exist and the boundaries are extremely blurred.

Is there a better solution to the existing situation?

It might not be a good idea to have the chief of staff report directly to the government. Other countries have some form of national security council to which the chief of staff comes with his aide and there are professionals from civilian echelon, including the intelligence agencies. In such cases, the discussions, which here might be considered political, are there truly professional and the government is not dependent exclusively on the assessment of the military.

We need to reform the decision-making system in security affairs and I would urge the government to take action now.

David Rudge

Prof. Gabriel Ben-Dor is senior lecturer in the Political Science Department of Haifa University and director of national security studies.

Likud, Labor lock horns on Shahak's reported muzzling

By LIAT COLLINS

The incident in the cabinet session Sunday night, in which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly cut short Chief-of-General-Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak for straying from military issues into a diplomatic assessment, yesterday drew a slew of underplaying and alarmist responses from Right and Left.

Shalom said the incident had been "blown out of all proportion." Shahak, he said, had been cut off by the prime minister when he began to talk about France's initiative to convene an international meeting on the peace process. Netanyahu told Shahak he would discuss it later in the session during his own report as foreign minister, Shalom said.

The prime minister's remark was "legitimate and none of the ministers felt it was unusual," Shalom said. He added that he did not think anything of the incident until journalists started calling him up after it was reported on the evening news.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon also said he had not noted any incident at the time. Shahak, he said, had filed the same sort of report as usual. Labor leader Ehud Barak said that in the 15 years he reported to

the cabinet in his military capacity as Chief-of-General-Staff and in other positions, no prime minister or defense minister ever stopped him from talking, even when they did not like what he had to say. MK Avi Yehzekel (Labor) called for an amendment to the Basic Law: the Government, to oblige the Chief-of-General-Staff to give regular reports to the cabinet. Meretz leader Yossi Sarid asked that Shahak be invited to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee "so he can tell the committee what he was prevented from telling the cabinet."

The ex-general's lure

In the public debate that raged yesterday over whether Prime Minister Netanyahu did or did not stifle Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak at Sunday's cabinet meeting, some pundits theorized that the background to the incident was political.

IN CONTEXT

Shahak retires from the IDF in early July, this scenario goes. He has already been tapped as a possible front-runner in Ronni Milo's new party, or a replacement for Ehud Barak in Labor. By shutting him up, according to these pundits, Netanyahu was "sinking it to" a potential rival; letting him know who is boss.

Regardless of whether you buy this theory or not, one thing is certain: Shahak is a popular political commodity who, if he chooses, can leapfrog to the top echelons of nearly any party. "A political asset" is how he was labeled by former deputy foreign minister Yehuda Ben-Meir.

But there is something very paradoxical about having a man whose opinions are generally unknown by considered such a political asset. As chief of staff, Shahak has kept his political opinions very much to himself. Ask a neighbor what Shahak thinks about the Oslo Accords and chances are the reply will be: "I don't know." The same reply will come from individuals asked what Shahak feels about a Palestinian state, the religious secular divide, or the economy.

Few people know Shahak's political positions, and this is very much as it should be from a man who for the last three years was the country's highest ranking military officer. But then why should he be such a political attraction?

The reason, theorized Ben-Meir, author of *Civil-Military Relations in Israel*, is because the lines separating the critical mass of electorate - the vast majority of the population somewhere in the middle - are very blurry.

"The majority of the electorate is in the center, and everyone realizes that this is where Shahak is - he is not Meretz and not the National Religious Party," Ben-Meir said. "The public is looking for good people, and they see him as very straight, honest, straightforward, and serious. He instills a sense in people that this is the type of person in whose hands they want to place their destiny. They could care less about the details of his political positions."

"People want quiet and security, and they look at Shahak as someone they can both rely and depend on."

Although a number of previous chiefs of staff have gone into politics, Ben-Meir said Shahak's popularity stems more from his personality, than from his office. Neither Dan Shomron or Moshe Levy, also former chiefs of staff, had Shahak's, taster, and never made it into politics, he said.

"There is something about Shahak," said political media adviser Benny Cohen, "that touches people on an emotional, gut level. This is something that Barak doesn't have."

This "something" - not necessary the position of chief of general staff - is what holds public appeal. Yet it is undeniable, by looking at the number of former generals and chiefs of staff in politics, that a high military rank helps launch a political career.

Moshe Lissak, a Hebrew University professor emeritus of sociology and authority on IDF-state relations, said that the percentage of military men in government here exceeds the rate of anywhere else in the Western world.

But while an illustrious military career is a great launching pad, it is no guarantee to a successful political career. "Many generals failed in politics, and after a few years disappeared. They did not succeed, did not change anything," Lissak said. He cited Yigal Yadin, Moshe Dayan, and Yigal Allon as examples.

Yet despite the disappointments, Lissak said, in the competition between someone in a gray suit from the political realm and a general, people still prefer the generals, at least until they disappoint.

Anyone thinking this is an exaggeration need look no further than the current troubles besetting Barak inside Labor.



The pick of the crop
Sara Netanyahu, the prime minister's wife, picks fruit yesterday at Moshav Sha'al, on a tour of the Golan Heights with ministers' and MKs' wives.
(Avihu Shapiro/Israel Sun)

A-G: Opposition MKs should not accompany ministers abroad

By DAN IZENBERG

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein told cabinet ministers yesterday they should not invite opposition MKs to join them on trips abroad to neutralize the potential voting advantage to the opposition. Rubinstein said the practice interfered with the MKs' work and could be perceived as a violation of the principle of separation of powers which lies at the heart of the democratic system.

The issue of the trips arose last month, when MK Dalia Itzik (Labor) claimed that opposition MKs who were invited by the ministers became hesitant about criticizing them on their return.

When she made the statement, Ophir Pines (Labor) was accompanying Communications Minister Limor Livnat to Australia and Ephraim Oshaya (Labor) was with Health Minister Yehoshua Matza in Switzerland, while Yona Yahav (Labor) had recently returned from a trip to the US with Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi.

The ministries usually fund the MKs' trips. The issue was brought

before the Knesset Ethics Committee, which ruled that it must approve all trips by opposition MKs at the invitation of a minister.

But Rubinstein indicated that the ruling was insufficient. "The erosion in the principle of separation of powers, which lies at the heart of the democratic system, is particularly relevant with regard to the executive branch, particularly the cabinet, which concentrates a great deal of power in its hands, more so than in most other democratic countries," he wrote.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Har-Shefi's conviction
Margalit Har-Shefi's conviction on the grounds of failing to prevent a felony is rare, but when it comes to preventing the assassination of a prime minister, "there is no doubt that enforcing this clause is appropriate and essential," writes *Ma'ariv's* Moshe Negbi, reflecting the opinions of other commentators as well. He adds that Har-Shefi's conviction has an educational significance, especially at the present time, for those who are aware of plots to assassinate or hurt judges, attorneys, or wardens.

Yediot Aharanot's Tova Tzimluki quotes attorney Ra'anah Har-Zahav, who states that this type of conviction is constitutionally borderline, because its central foundation lies more in thought than in action.

The grave of Baruch Goldstein continues to be a focus of pilgrimage for extremists and to provoke controversy.

B. Michael in *Yediot* supports leaving the grave intact and considers it an efficient means for exposing fanatics. "This hole in which the body of the murderer lies constitutes an accurate litmus paper for the immediate identification of acids, poison, and their carriers, i.e., this grave is simply an efficient laboratory for identifying fascists," Michael writes.

Hatzofeh's Hanoach Daum distinguishes Goldstein from other Jewish murderers by the fact that he manages to cause ferment, agitation, and social rupture from his grave. "Every additional word in this unnecessary argument around [Goldstein's] burial place only revives the murderer for a few more hours."

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Jerusalem, 16 June 1998, 22 Sivan 5758

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PA has high hopes for Jericho casino

By HAIM SHAPIRO
and news agencies

The first casino is not to be in Eilat, or Mitzpe Ramon, or any of the other places suggested by those who favor their establishment in Israel, but rather on the outskirts of Jericho, under the Palestinian Authority's jurisdiction.

In an announcement yesterday by the franchise-holders, Casinos Austria International, the company said that the casino would open this fall and that it would have 35 gaming tables and 220 slot machines, as well as a restaurant and entertainment area. An adjacent 220-room hotel is due to be opened in the summer of 1999.

When the entire complex is completed, the announcement said, it will be the largest tourism and recreation complex in the Middle East, with two or three hotels, a convention center and a golf course, representing an investment of some \$150 million and an area five kilometers square.

The complex, to be known as Oasis, is near the highway from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea. The Casino is to have an international staff of about 400, but the director of Oasis, Alexander Tucek said that eventually it would provide a livelihood for about 1,000 families and serve to draw further investment to the area.

Avi Rosental, director of the Israel Hotel Association, said that if the casino is an attraction,

Israeli hoteliers would also benefit from it. However, he also warned that in order to succeed, such a tourism project would have to involve cooperation between the Israelis and the Palestinians. A spokesperson for the Tourism Ministry said that the Ministry believed a casino in Jericho would not hurt tourism to Israel.

"Tourism is regional and if more tourists come, they will also come to Israel," the spokesperson said.

The casino planners, headed by Mohammed Rashid, Yasser Arafat's free-wheeling economic adviser, believe Palestinians will have an economic future only if they can attract large numbers of tourists and develop a service industry.

Hamas fears that would lead to the dismantling of traditional Palestinian society. "We consider this project a serious challenge to Islam and to Muslims," said Ismail Hanieh, a Hamas leader.

Already, the project has proven a boon for Akabat Jaber, a refugee camp near Jericho of 4,000 people and few jobs. Every morning, workers from the camp trudge across the road to the construction site. Others stream in from Jericho and other West Bank towns.

Abdel Rahman Yaghi, a blacksmith, said he sought spiritual advice when offered a two-day welding job at the casino. The camp preacher said no, but Yaghi, a father of six, went anyway.

"We have to work, and we have to live," he said.

Tsomet opposes induction law

Rafael Eitan calls forced draft of Yeshiva students 'coercion'

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Departing from his party's calls for drafting haredi men, Tsomet leader and Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan said yesterday while visiting a yeshiva in Bnei Brak that his party would oppose Labor Party leader Ehud Barak's induction bill for yeshiva students.

Eitan told Rabbi Baruch Weissbecker, the head of the Matityahu Yeshiva, that he regarded legislation on this issue as "coercion."

"We'll find a way to enable yeshiva students to partake in the national burden by means of conversation and negotiation," Eitan said. "We will not support Barak's proposal, which is pointless, redundant and will not lead to any solution."

A similar bill, with the addition of enlisting Arabs to the army, was recently presented by MK Eliezer Zandberg, of Tsomet, and was rejected by the Knesset.

Eitan said yesterday he was not interested in a general draft of yeshiva students to the army, but only to certain duties, such

as guarding the Western Wall compound.

Barak, who addressed the National Religious Party's moderate Mashov circle on Sunday, revealed the exemption of 30,000 haredi young men up to the age of 35 from military service and their resulting exclusion from the work force is costing the Israeli economy \$1.5 billion to \$3b.

Barak said haredi recruits can contribute to the IDF in various ways. "Even if haredi soldiers do not become Givati commanders in the next few years, they can work

in the IDF's computer units," he said.

Barak's spokesperson said his induction bill reflects the will of more than 80% of the country's citizens, and Labor expects a general support for it in the Knesset, including from Tsomet, which is in favor of haredim joining the military service.

The public council for enlisting haredim this week launched a public information campaign of outdoor posters on billboards and buses with the slogan "one nation, one enlistment" and "we're all Jews - even the haredim."



Instant border checks

A fresh recruit yesterday tests out a new fingerprint reader at the Border Police base at Ma'aleh Bichmash. The scanner is planned for use at Erez and other crossings where it is expected to step up the pace of border checks to six people a minute. (Text: Margot Dudaik/Photo: Kevin Unger)

Edelstein quits meeting after critic invited to speak

By DAN IZENBERG

Immigration and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein said yesterday he would lodge a complaint with the Knesset Ethics Committee against State Control Committee Chairman Yossi Katz for inviting a man to the committee who had accused Edelstein of being trained by the KGB to proselytize Jews.

The meeting was scheduled to discuss this year's State Comptroller's Report, which found fault with the way the ministry distributed subsidies to public institutions and non-profit organizations.

Edelstein charged that the guest, Yuli Nudelman, had recently written in the Russian-language newspaper *Nashe Vremya* that he had been trained by the KGB to convert Israeli Jews to Christianity.

"All of a sudden, this man appears at the invitation of the committee chairman," Edelstein told reporters after walking out of

the room while Nudelman spoke.

"Recently, he published an article claiming that I am a KGB agent operating in Israel to convert the Jews to Christianity, and I, of course, am about to sue him for libel. Suddenly I see him here as the main speaker after the minister," Edelstein said.

Katz said he had been fair to Edelstein and that the minister's appeal to the ethics committee would not deter him from examining the State Comptroller's findings.

"Maybe, he's trying to cover something up," Katz said.

Nudelman, meanwhile, accused Edelstein and Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky of "introducing Bolshevik techniques to Israel."

While Edelstein was out of the room, Nudelman charged that it was impossible to monitor the meetings of the ministry's grants committee, thus making it impossible to keep tabs on sums being spent.

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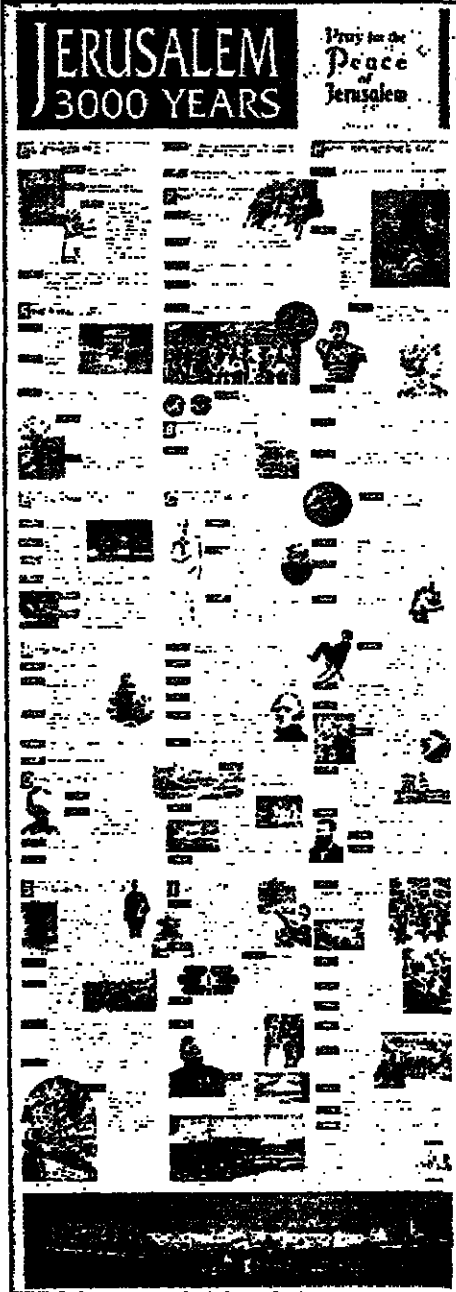
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Maccabi sues tobacco firm

By JUDY SIEGEL

Kupat Holim Maccabi yesterday filed a NIS 1.75 billion suit against the Dubek tobacco company to cover its costs in treating members' smoking-related illnesses.

The insurer is demanding NIS 250 million for its expenses for each year since 1991, the last year before the statute of limitations.

The suit, filed in the Tel Aviv District Court, is separate from a class-action suit filed last fall on behalf of 15 former smokers, or families of deceased smokers. They claimed they were not aware of nicotine being "added to make cigarettes more addictive and the health dangers posed by smoking, which were not mentioned for decades in Dubek's advertising."

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza "congratulated" Maccabi

on the suit, according to a ministry statement.

Ran Rahav, spokesman for the government-recognized monopoly that sells most of the cigarettes smoked by Israelis said Dubek "had not yet received" the documents. "When we receive them, we will comment," he said.

Dubek has a battery of the country's leading lawyers from the S. Hurwitz law office working on the case.

Kupat Holim Clalit, which has three times as many members - many of them chronically ill and elderly - is now seriously considering the possibility of joining the suit. Kupat Holim Leumi's spokesman said that health fund has decided "definitely not" to take part in the legal action, but did not offer any reasons.

Holim Meuhedet did not comment.

No-confidence motion passes for third straight time

AT THE KNESSET

to topple the government and not 61, as currently required. The amendment itself, however, also requires support from 61 MKs to pass all readings, as it is a change to a Basic Law.

Ze'ev: Disband some panels to save costs

Molodet leader Rehavam Ze'evi has proposed that the Knesset Committee for the Status of Women and the War on Drugs Committee be disbanded to save

costs.

Committee chairwoman Yael Dayan (Labor) said in response that the committee has existed for six years, and is the only address for women from all sectors. "There is no need to apologize for its existence," she said. She also noted that the committee's work was marked by its cross-party cooperation.

"Only when women have equal rights and do not suffer from discrimination and violence will there be a point in considering this type of request."

Molodet MK Benny Elon, whose wife Emma is a former adviser to the prime minister on the status of women, said in this instance he disagreed with his party leader.

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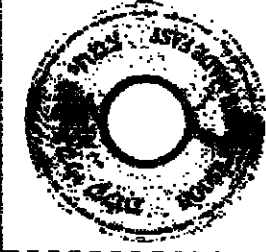
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Police: Beersheba gym was planned as a courtyard, not an indoor area

By LIAT COLLINS

The Beersheba school gym whose roof collapsed killing two boys last week was originally planned as a courtyard, not an indoor area. This was one of the points which came up during the discussion of the tragedy in the Knesset Education Committee yesterday.

Negev Area Police Deputy

Commander Eli Maman told the committee the inquiry is continuing, but there is a possibility of criminal negligence.

"The police are investigating all those involved in the construction to the last worker," he said. Beersheba Deputy Mayor Yossi Benano said the roof was built almost 30 years ago, "and the investigation should go back to then."

He said construction work was

carried out during the school year, as is common around the country.

"At this moment, students continue to study in dangerous schools, and we are also guilty of not shouting out enough," said Yisrael Goldstein from the Parents' Association in Beersheba. The most important thing is that we prevent the next disaster.

The committee, chaired by Emanuel Zissman (Third Way),

passed three resolutions calling on the Education Ministry to supervise the implementation of safety procedures; bring to justice those responsible according to the findings of the three different investigating committees; and immediately carry out a survey on the structural condition of educational institutions. Zissman said "clearly no steps had been taken to prevent the disaster."

He said responsibility for the plans lay with the Education Ministry, but the implementation was the responsibility of the local authority.

Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled (Tsomet-Likud) said the ministry director-general last year issued a clear directive on what measures to take during construction and renovation work in schools.



WIZO members demonstrate outside Beersheba Family Court yesterday, demanding that Stanislav Mashchiriakov, who allegedly beat his pregnant wife to death early Saturday morning, be charged with two counts of murder.

Report: Most murdered wives didn't complain of abuse

By NOAH STREET and Jerusalem Post Staff

Ten of the 16 women killed by their partners in 1997 had not filed any abuse complaints against them, according to a report by the Internal Security Ministry that is to be discussed today by the Knesset Status of Women Committee.

The report deals with the perceived deficiencies in police response to complaints of spousal abuse and the reasons why, so few women have come forth to report abuse.

According to the report, of the six men whose wives or partners filed complaints, five were arrested — but were released the same evening. Three were

released on condition they stay away from the complainants, one was released on condition he relinquish his gun, and two others were referred to social workers. One of the latter two was found unstable and hospitalized.

Three of the 16 victims filed complaints during 1996, the year before they were killed. Seven of these women were shot to death, seven were stabbed or axed, one was strangled, and one was bludgeoned to death.

The report concluded that the police must work at increasing their sensitivity toward volatile domestic situations and updating information to deny gun licenses to people with criminal records. However, the report stressed that the police cannot act if women

fail to report abuse.

The report notes that the Israel Police has allocated 120 positions to combat violence against women, including hiring nine Arab women investigators. In addition, the police plans to train another 50 investigators in order to provide two per police station who are able to deal with this especially sensitive issue.

According to Masha Lubelsky, adviser to the minister of internal security on the status of women and the prevention of violence against women, "most of the women [victims] were undergoing divorce proceedings, which can raise hostilities and violence... Women and their families need to be trained how to deal with these situations."

Na'amat chairman Ofra Friedman accused the police of being aware of many abusive husbands but refraining from arresting them. She compared this to the conviction of Margalit Har-shefi for not informing the police of Yigal Amir's plan to assassinate Yitzhak Rabin, arguing that if the police do not prevent the abuse, they are accomplices to the husband.

"The question we must ask ourselves is how can we do things better," said Friedman. "We must all take a role and the police must do everything they can to remove the threat to these women. Why is it, even in the six cases where the wives complained, were their deaths not prevented?"

K. Gat to wreck unsafe school wing

"I bless each day that goes by safely," says Sara Barel, principal of the Sprinjak Elementary School in Kiryat Gat.

One of the school's classroom wings collapsed during class about five months ago.

That wing was declared unsafe and was fenced off.

On the other side of its wall, however, pupils continue to learn in a section whose floor is sinking and where cracks have appeared in walls, support pillars, and the roof.

"It's not dangerous," said Mayor Albert Erez, "God forbid, not like the roof of the gym at Comprehensive High School 6 that collapsed last week in Beersheba. But just today I signed a demolition order for that classroom building."

Itm

Expert: City never okayed Maccabiah bridge

Plans for a footbridge that collapsed during the Maccabiah Games last summer, killing four Australian athletes, were never submitted for review by city planners and engineers, a witness testified yesterday.

Two contractors, the engineer who designed the bridge, the director of the games and the chairman of the Maccabiah organizing committee are on trial in Tel Aviv Magistrates' Court on charges of negligent homicide and building without proper permits.

But Avraham Landstein, the attorney for engineer Micha Bar-Ilan, said city officials in Ramat Gan,

where the games were held, should also be on trial.

"I would put Ramat Gan Mayor Zvi Bar, the municipal engineer, the local police chief of Ramat Gan, and whoever is responsible for the Yarkon River at the Ministry of Environment on trial," Landstein said.

The bridge collapsed during the opening ceremony of the games on July 14. About 100 Australian athletes were on the bridge when it buckled, and dozens were injured after being plunged into the polluted Yarkon.

Yesterday, the court heard testi-

mony from Shmuel Dor, a member of Ramat Gan's planning and building committee, who said the subject of the bridge was never deliberated in the committee.

Dor, questioned by Landstein, said the bridge should have been approved by the city engineer.

Also testifying was draftsman Tomer Katz, who drew up the blueprints for the bridge, based on specifications from the contractors. Katz said he had never before drawn plans for a bridge.

The five defendants face up to three years in prison if convicted. (AP)

Neeman panel tours Western Wall

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Despite a boycott by the Chief Rabbinate, the Religious Affairs Ministry, and two of its members, the Neeman Committee yesterday held a tour as planned at the Western Wall to determine possible places of prayer for Reform and Conservative groups and for the Women of the Wall.

In addition to Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, participants in the tour included Antiquities Authority Director-General Amir Drori, Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Ya'acov Yitzhaki, Justice Ministry Director-General Nili Arad, and a representative of the Women of the Wall. The two committee members who did not appear were Rabbi Simha Miron

and Rabbi Nahum Rabinovitch, the two Orthodox rabbis on the committee.

Neeman revealed that the committee had been scheduled to tour the area twice before, but both times the tour had been postponed at the request of the Religious Affairs Ministry. On Sunday, the chief rabbis and Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Arye Gamliel had called for a boycott to protest a Reform prayer in the Western Wall Plaza.

The group visited two areas along the southern wall of the Temple Mount, areas in which Reform and Conservative bar and bat mitzva ceremonies already regularly take place. They also viewed the archeological garden under Robinson's

Arch, an area which is part of the Western Wall, but separated from the prayer area by an earth ramp leading up to the Temple Mount, and several areas of the Western Wall Plaza.

Neeman, the Reform and Conservative representatives, and the Women of the Wall representative all appeared to favor the area under Robinson's Arch, but Drori, whose Antiquities Authority is now responsible for the site, objected, saying it is an area of antiquities, visited by millions of visitors every year.

In the plaza, the visitors viewed the areas adjacent to the barrier on its southern edge. They also discussed the possibility of utilizing the hillside adjacent to the police station at its back.

NEWS

in brief

License plates to show the flag

New cars will now receive license plates bearing the national flag, after the Knesset Economics Committee approved a proposal by Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom. Current license plates on cars will not have to be changed.

Yahalom said placing the flag on the plates is only one of a series of changes in them to prevent forgeries. The new plates will also bear several special identification marks.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Flower growers file claim against Baghdad

The Flower Growers Association has filed an \$8 million claim against Iraq for damages to the industry caused by the Gulf War. The claim was submitted to the United Nations.

The secretary of the association, Avraham Daniel, said the damages resulted from the closure that was imposed during the war, which prevented the entry of Palestinian laborers into Israel.

According to Daniel's estimate, 32 million flowers were not harvested and growers were forced to destroy them. The claim was submitted on the basis of Security Council Resolution 687, which holds Iraq responsible for damages incurred during the war.

Arafat sends flowers for Weizman's birthday

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday sent a bouquet of flowers to President Ezer Weizman on the occasion of his 74th birthday. Arafat attached a card saying: "Greetings to a courageous leader and pursuer of peace."

Weizman kept up his daily routine yesterday, meeting with youths who came back to Israel from abroad to do their military service. "You are the best present I received for my birthday," he said.

Groups wants ILA appointment voided

The non-profit group Amitai has petitioned the High Court of Justice seeking the nullification of the appointment of attorney Avraham Drechsler as director-general of the Israel Lands Administration. The group contends that Drechsler, who dealt in real estate law and represented several people in cases against the ILA, would be faced with a conflict of interest every time he had to deal with a matter involving a former client.

Itm

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The people abuser

"The law is a ass - a idiot," said Mr. Bumble, the workhouse beadle in Oliver Twist.

It sure seems so in international law proclaiming such conflicts as Kosovo and Chechnya to be internal affairs. Of course, in our heads we think the law is right. Give foreigners the right to intervene in states' willy-nilly and pretty soon we'll have outbreaks of Sudetenland land-grabs by dictators across the globe.

But in our hearts, we feel there must be some better way to order international affairs which seem to allow a people abuser like Slobodan Milosevic to murder lots of Moslems he doesn't like in his nasty little country, just because they are not Serbs.

The scores of NATO war-planes screaming over Kosovo's borders yesterday come pretty close to neighborly intervention and, although the next step would land in literal as well as diplomatic minefields, it is hard to criticize the international escalation of anger against El Slobodan of Belgrade.

Old buddies

But if one is a Russian official, international common sense dictated by the head takes over. The reasons for Moscow's over-zealous support of the Serbs are simple enough: historical friendship and alliance, shared Christian Orthodoxy and a common view that "the last remaining superpower" and its superpower war machine NATO are getting too bossy for their boots.

More pertinently, Serbia is doing in Kosovo what Russia did in Chechnya.

Under no circumstances would Russia have tolerated any interference there. Surprise, surprise that Milosevic, who rarely leaves Belgrade, is off to Moscow this morning, while NATO huffs and puffs just over the frontier from his marauding troops.

A diplomat told a *Herald Tribune* correspondent last week that NATO's differing over intervention in Kosovo is "a legal argument over a dying patient."

Although most democratic law is based on millions of precedents, most lawyers detest setting new ones. "Every new precedent is a bad precedent even if it achieves good," a lawyer once said in an argument.

The theory is that NATO invading Kosovo will open a Pandora's box as large as an apartment building. Cautious diplomats have nightmares about US Cavalry riding roughshod over every international hillock where the Indians are restless, Russia demanding equal rights to intervene in support of its people or friends in eastern European states (say, Estonia), African dictators wandering in and out of one another's territory at will.

More splinters

There is, too, the dangerous precedent, in an increasingly splintered world, of creating yet more independent states. The Kosovo Albanians were reasonably content

with their partial autonomy - it never made them love Serbs, but it did allow them to lead their daily lives their own way.

Milosevic opened the road to ethnic cleansing when he abolished autonomy and absorbed the unwilling 90 percent Albanian Kosovo into Serbia. Inevitably, a Kosovo liberation front emerged, demanding not autonomy, but independence.

Equally inevitably, this gave Milosevic the excuse to label the militants "terrorists." The more "terrorists" he kills, the more emerge - by now all Kosovo is pretty much converted to liberation theology. For NATO to bomb the Serbian army back to the bow-and-arrow, as it did with the Bosnian-Serb army in Bosnia, would be seen as a blow struck for Kosovan independence. Bosnia already is split into tiny confederated statelets that don't speak to one another, while the rest of former Yugoslavia has become Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia.

Only Slovenia so far has made it as a civilized and free European democracy. To this we need to add a Republic of Kosovo, as a battered remnant of whatever Milosevic leaves standing in the province? Washington doesn't think so.

Lock 'em up

New precedents can come back to haunt their inventors, and what if some cuckoo American militia group one day declares its trailer park to be the capital of the Republic of Free White Montana, and Serbia or Russia recognizes it?

There are very solid reasons why the invasion-built Turkish Republic of North Cyprus has not been recognized by any state except Turkey. It's not because the Turkish Cypriots aren't nice - they are - or antidemocratic - they aren't. It's because of the unacceptable precedent it would set.

There appears to be only one answer to Serbian aggression, without overthrowing the Dayton Peace Accords, American-Russian friendship, or international law and the orderly conduct of diplomatic relations. The answer is similar to our new attitudes toward common domestic violence: New precedents aren't needed, but tougher laws and law enforcement are.

Since family violence can lead to murder, most countries now permit police intervention to forcibly remove a violent spouse from the home. That in no way interferes with the right of couples to have an ordinary blazing row or discipline their children.

Ethnic cleansing, genocide and slavery should be made tougher international crimes which override the right of sovereignty when proven by due process. The punishment: automatic legal intervention by international peace enforcers. Such a law would not have required foreign interference in Chechnya - a rebellion - or Northern Ireland - mutual civil strife. It would have saved Bosnia, and it would save Kosovo's Albanians. It would put Milosevic behind bars.

On eve of Clinton visit

China revisits its past ties with US

By JOHN POMFRET

XINXIANG - Wang Wengong pointed a crooked finger skyward and traced the swooping descent of a small plane. "It came this way," he said, squinting over lush fields of spring wheat. He was remembering April 22, 1945, when the plane came to rescue an American pilot whom local villagers had been hiding from occupying Japanese troops for more than a month.

After decades of ignoring the ties that led to the defeat of Japan, the Chinese government has switched gears and launched an officially backed initiative to remind Americans - and Chinese - of the depth and history of the US-China relationship. The rescue of Col. Gabriel P. Disosway, as recalled by Wang, is one of many such stories to emerge as President Clinton prepares to go to China for a summit later this month.

Wang recounted the incident with the enthusiasm of the 14-year-old boy he was at the time, peering out at history from behind a hole in a mud-walled courtyard. "Other planes were attacking the train station to the west," Wang said. "There were bombs going off. The sky was black. Then it landed there, near those trees, on land that belonged to my father."

The plane belonged to the 14th Air Force of the US Army in China, part of US efforts to fight the Japanese. Its mission was to save Disosway, an American pilot who had been shot down in his P-51 Mustang fighter by Japanese during an American air raid on an ammunition train near this city in central China. Disosway had been sheltered for weeks by Chinese peasants in the area. Within minutes, he was airborne and heading for safety behind American lines in Xian, 300 miles away.

The motivation for this officially inspired recollection - in the form of TV serials and documentaries, news reports, joint expeditions to search for the bones of dead American soldiers, memorials and monuments - appears to be twofold: to fight a rear-guard action against conservative elements within the Communist Party that oppose closer ties with the United States, and to counter what many Chinese government officials fear is a worrisome trend of anti-Chinese sentiment within the US.

China has also emphasized the alliance against Japan because it is concerned about Washington's recent efforts to strengthen its defense relationship with Tokyo.

Improving US ties has also become important to President Jiang Zemin. With the return of Hong Kong accomplished by his predecessor, Deng Xiaoping, and the recovery of Taiwan an impossibility at present, Jiang has focused on making stronger ties with the US his political legacy, Chinese analysts say.

Indeed, Jiang's first stop on his whistle-stop tour of the US last October for a summit with President Clinton was the USS Arizona, where he laid a wreath for the seamen killed in Japan's



A customer browsing this week at a Beijing book stand near a poster promoting a book on Bill Clinton. Interest in things American is growing ahead of the US president's visit which begins next week. (AP)

raid on Pearl Harbor. Throughout his trip, he emphasized - to the point of exaggeration - the similarities in American and Chinese history, from their battles with colonial powers to their advances in science and technology.

UNTIL THE 1980s and in fits and starts in the 1990s, the US was portrayed in China as an imperialist power, seeking global domination. The US started and lost the Korean War, in the Chinese version. It started and lost the Vietnam War. Its success in the Gulf War was due to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's failures. It was still a paper tiger.

However, in the middle 1990s, two organizations appear to have led the charge in changing the way American power is viewed in China: the People's Liberation Army and the United Front

Department of the Chinese Communist Party.

In recent years, the army has launched a full-scale re-evaluation of China's foreign policy history since the Communists took power in 1949 and banished the Nationalist government to Taiwan. An army-backed publishing house has suggested the Korean War actually was started by North Korea, heretofore a heresy in Communist China. The United Front Department is in charge of co-opting friendly or neutral powers in China's march to world power status.

Chinese newspapers these days are sprinkled with news of US airplane fragments being found in mountains and lakes in southwestern China. American and Chinese soldiers have dug - sometimes successfully - on mountaintops and in ravines for

the bones of long-dead Americans over the past few years. Chinese historians have written extensively of the American help given to China during World War II. One recent TV program reported that Zhang Aiping, one of the last surviving marshals from China's Communist revolution, saved five American pilots inside his guerrilla base in the 1940s.

The army and the United Front Department teamed up to back the building in Nanjing of a controversial memorial to airmen killed in action in China during World War II. The monument, known as the Anti-Japanese Aviators Memorial, was completed in 1995 but took 10 years to build because of political opposition. None of the dead is a Chinese Communist; at the time, the Communists did not have an

air force, only guerrilla units. Of the 3,279 dead, 2,186 were American airmen who fought first with Gen. Claire Chennault's famed volunteer force, the Flying Tigers, and later with American forces based in China.

Chinese Nationalists come in second, with more than 800 names.

Soviet and Korean pilots make up the rest. Indeed, the monument's completion in 1995 was kept quiet because relations with the US and Taiwan were tense at the time.

Since then, however, an average of 80,000 Chinese students are brought to visit it each year, local officials said. "We won't forget our good ties with America. We hope and believe that America won't forget either," said Lt. Gen. Han Decai, a senior officer in the airborne wing of the People's Liberation Army and a strong proponent of remembering China's alliance with the US.

A bona fide Chinese war hero who shot down a half-dozen American planes during the Korean War, Han was at the forefront of army officers who backed the monument in Nanjing. In a rare interview, the former pilot openly linked the building of the sprawling memorial - which, with its walls of black marble inscribed with the names of the dead, recalls the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington - and the fight against the anti-China lobby in the US.

"We welcome Americans of all stripes to come to China," said Han, "those who agree with us and especially those who don't. The United States and China were a world apart, and yet they fought side by side. So how can you say that China now wants to threaten the United States?"

One person who looks with some humor at China's renewed interest in history has been Disosway, the American who was shot down over Xinxiang. Now 88, the lanky former pilot retired from the Air Force in 1968 as a four-star general, having served as the commander of the US Air Forces in Europe and as head of the Tactical Air Command.

Chinese officials found him earlier this year, and in February a state-run newspaper printed a letter he wrote thanking his former allies.

"If I had been captured they would have shot me," Disosway said in a recent interview in his two-story town house in Shreveport, Louisiana.

"The Chinese put themselves at great risk hiding me. If I had been captured, they would have shot them, too."

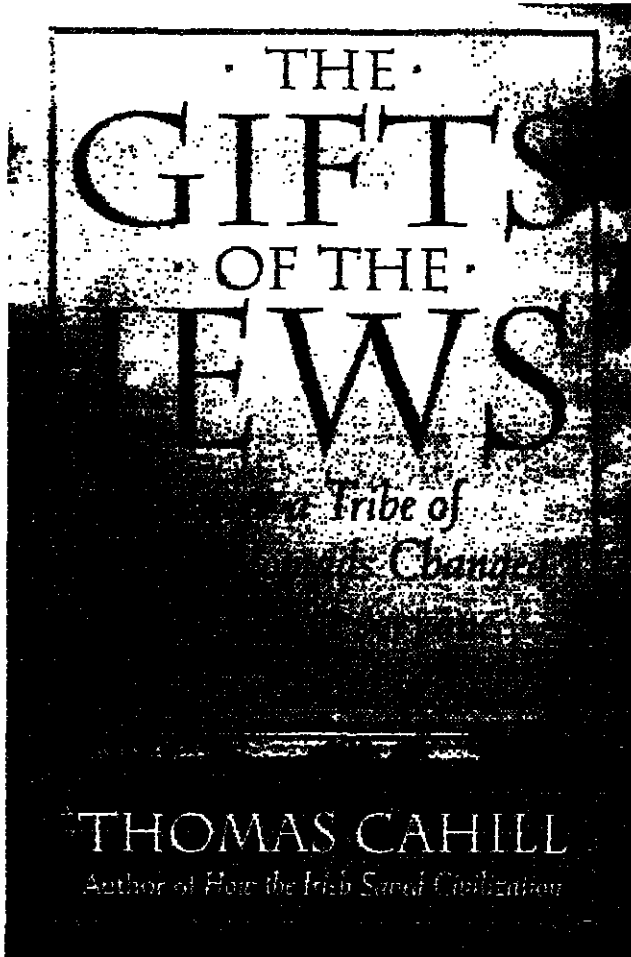
Back in Xinxiang, Wang has fond memories of the American pilot. He hints that his father was punished after the Communist revolution for helping the American pilot and for owning land. But those days, he said with a sad smile, are past.

"My father told me and my brother to study Disosway," Wang recalled. "We did that. He was a good model. A courageous fighter. A man not afraid to die, to die even for China."

(Washington Post)

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Russia: NATO misled us over Balkan flights

By DOUGLAS HAMILTON

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy (Reuters) - Russian Defense Minister Igor Sergeev said NATO had misled him over its Balkan air exercises, which he described as "unexpected," the Interfax news agency reported yesterday.

Sergeev spoke while NATO planes thundered into the skies over the southern Balkans to demonstrate Western determination to stop sectarian bloodshed in Kosovo.

Fighting continued in Kosovo over the weekend and Yugoslavian President Slobodan Milosevic was expected in Moscow yesterday for crucial talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin to try to avert military action.

NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana warned Milosevic he faced his last chance to avert military action.

By dawn, airborne tankers and AWACS reconnaissance aircraft were already airborne. Fighters were to follow shortly afterwards.

Lt-Gen. Michael Short, commander of allied air forces, southern Europe, said 84 aircraft would participate in exercise "Determined Falcon" and 13 of NATO's 16 states were involved.

Short said he expected Yugoslav air defenses to follow the planes "very closely." The exercise would take place under peacetime rules of engagement. "That means aircrews have the inherent right to self-defense," he added. "It is important to stress that we will do nothing to provoke a response."

The planes will fly over the Adriatic Sea into the airspace of Albania and the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, returning to Italy in a huge clockwise swirl.

Washington and its European allies are piling pressure on Milosevic to stop the crackdown on ethnic Albanians in Serbia's southern province and prevent the conflict from sweeping through the southern Balkans.

"We want to show that we are prepared to act if necessary in

order to back up the international community to find a solution to this terrible problem of Kosovo," Solana said.

"We are facing probably the last opportunity that President Slobodan Milosevic has to abide by international community recommendations in order to find a peaceful solution to the conflict," he told BBC radio.

Solana made clear NATO wanted to get UN Security Council approval for any military action.

But Security Council member Russia was quick to express displeasure over NATO's show of force. Reports of Moscow's unhappiness emerged as Milosevic headed for Moscow.

Sergeev said NATO had misled him over the air exercises. "We discussed the Kosovo problem [during my trip to Brussels]. We all agreed that first of all it was necessary to resolve it with political measures. And as soon as I get back to Moscow I find out the exercises have begun. This was unexpected for me," Sergeev said after talks with visiting US Gen. Hugh Shelton.

Russia is uneasy about NATO's increased presence in the southern Balkans. It has maintained close ties with Serbia based on a common Slav and Orthodox heritage.

Earlier yesterday, the Russian Defense Ministry confirmed that it was recalling its military representative to NATO, Lt-Gen. Viktor Zavarzin, to Moscow but declined to say whether this was a protest.

Shelton said NATO wants a peaceful, diplomatic solution to the Kosovo crisis and said the Western alliance is pinning its hopes on the Milosevic-Yeltsin meeting.

In Sunday's clashes three Kosovo Albanians and two Serbian policemen were killed when guerrillas of the separatist Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) attacked a military convoy, Serbian sources said.

The Albanian-run Kosovo Information Center accused Serb security forces of blasting ethnic Albanian villages across western



US personnel check an F-16 at the Aviano air base yesterday, from which 24 fighters and reconnaissance aircraft were sent over Albania and Macedonia for the exercise 'Determined Falcon' to demonstrate NATO's commitment to stability in the region. (AP)

Kosovo in attacks that also killed at least four Albanians on Saturday.

Ethnic Albanians account for 90 percent of Kosovo's 1.8 million population and increasingly sup-

port the KLA's demands for independence.

Aviano air base in northern Italy was one of the main staging areas for a NATO strike at Bosnian Serb positions in Bosnia in August 1995

which ended the war and paved the way for the Dayton peace accords.

US and Portuguese F-16s and Spanish F-18 fighters will take off from Aviano, while Dutch, Belgian, and Norwegian F-16s will

take off from Villafranca near Verona.

The Dutch will also contribute a DC-10 tanker aircraft, flying in from Eindhoven.

British planes are likely to take

part from the Gioia del Colle base in the southern Puglia region, the closest to Albania, and US Marine AV-8 Harriers will lift off from the helicopter carrier USS Wasp off the Puglia coast.

Ethiopia, Eritrea to halt air raids

By MANOAH ESIPISU

ASMARA (Reuters) - Ethiopia and Eritrea said yesterday they have agreed to halt air strikes in their undeclared border war under a deal brokered by US President Bill Clinton.

Eritrea said the moratorium is the first step toward resolving a conflict. Hundreds of people have died on both sides of the disputed border.

Ethiopian government spokeswoman Selome Tadesse told reporters his country agreed to the moratorium but said it will defend itself "if our sovereignty is put under threat."

Yemane Ghebremeskel, a senior adviser to Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki, said the air war had stopped for all intents and purposes.

"This is a partial cessation of hostilities, from which we can work toward a complete cessation of hostilities which Eritrea wants, but Ethiopia objects to," he said.

On Sunday, Afewerki told visiting Italian envoy Rino Serri he was ready for face-to-face talks with Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi.

The agreement to halt the air war came after Clinton spoke to the leaders of both countries by telephone on Sunday.

His intervention underlined the level of US concern about a war between two of its closest African allies.

Anti-immigrant party's electoral gain divides Aussie leaders

By TERRY FRUE

PM mulls snap election after Hanson's success in Queensland

CANBERRA (Reuters) - Australian Prime Minister John Howard talked tough yesterday about a snap election, despite simmering divisions within his coalition over his strategy to deal with ultra-conservative politician Pauline Hanson.

Hanson's One Nation party swept almost a quarter of the vote on Saturday in the Queensland state election with its policies against Asian immigration,

Aboriginal welfare, foreign investment, and free trade.

One Nation won up to 12 seats, heightening tensions between Howard's Liberals and their junior coalition partner, the rural-based Nationals, as well as among immigrants and Aborigines.

Nervous government MPs subsequently urged Howard to drop controversial policies, including a new tax, to woo disgruntled conservative voters who have turned to One

Nation.

The party, formed 15 months ago by national MP Hanson, has also boosted speculation about defections from government ranks to One Nation ahead of the next election, due by mid-1999 but expected within a few months.

Liberal and National backbenchers and political analysts now say Howard needs time to redraft his battle plan and jettison unpopular policies to win back support in

the conservatives' rural heartland.

"He'd be crazy to go [to the polls] now," said one Liberal member. "Queensland was a pretty clear message, we've got to start listening." Hanson's chief adviser, David Oldfield, said One Nation had tapped voter anxiety about the country's "Asianization." Asians comprise 40 percent of the annual immigration to Australia.

"It's not a matter of racism, it's a matter of cultural intolerance," Oldfield told Sydney radio 2UE.

"We are different. It doesn't mean we are better or they're better or either of us are worse - we are simply different."

If One Nation's Queensland success translates nationwide, an early election could give Hanson the balance of power in the Senate.

But Howard said an early election was currently his only solution to a parliamentary deadlock over Aboriginal land rights.

"What is good for the country is fixing the native title [land rights] mess," Howard told Nine Network television. "And at the moment, the only way that that can be done is through a joint sitting following [an early election]."

The Senate's earlier rejection of Howard's bill to wind back land rights gives him a constitutional right to dissolve both houses and call an election by November. This can be followed by a joint sitting of both houses to pass the contentious bill.

Howard won power in 1996 from a Labor Party government seen as out of touch, and he conceded yesterday the Queensland result showed people are still disillusioned with the major parties.

"There is a message in it. I think

both major parties would be foolish to ignore it," Howard said. "There is a battle-weariness within the electorate, perhaps with some of the tactics of major parties and the ambience of national politics."

But he stood by key policies, including a new value-added tax and plans to sell the government's remaining A\$45 billion, two-thirds stake in telecommunications giant Telstra Corp - both rejected by Hanson.

Increasingly anxious backbenchers say the government will be unable to push the new tax through parliament in the current climate.

"Plainly, that's not going to be acceptable in Queensland," said De-Anne Kelly, a federal National member from Queensland.

Backbenchers also say the Telstra sale would be a big loser in rural areas, where residents rely on subsidized services.

The Nationals suffered most from the Queensland defections in protest of its failure to press the Liberals on issues of rural assistance, trade protection, and gun laws.

"If we don't change our course, quite plainly, people will send us the message at a federal level as they have at a state level," Kelly said.

An economic challenge, too

ANALYSIS

By JOHN HARR

ago and has attracted attention mainly for its opposition to Asian immigration and Aboriginal welfare.

Saturday's result in Queensland has split the conservative vote and sparked talk of a delayed federal election as Howard's conservatives seek to counter her impact.

The next election is not due until mid-1999, but is expected within a few months as Howard seeks to take advantage of a healthy economy and resolve a parliamentary deadlock over Aboriginal land rights.

Part of Hanson's populist platform has been an attack on deregulation and free-market policies, and an attack on the role markets have played in the disenfranchisement of many people.

"A foreign exchange dealer is as suspect to One Nation voters as an Aborigine," said John Edwards, HSBC Markets chief economist.

Despite some predictions, the success of One Nation did not noticeably dent the Australian dollar in trading yesterday, although it remained hovering near 12-year lows under US\$0.59.

It did have an effect on the debt market, however, with interest rates rising a few points as traders assessed the impact of Queensland for

both the timing of the federal election and the sale of Telstra.

Hanson opposes the sale of more than 49 percent of Telstra and plans for a goods and services tax - both of which the government has said will be key election issues.

Proceeds of the Telstra sale have been earmarked for the retiring of debt, a move backed by the market.

Queensland government debt was also out of favor with the market yesterday, with the spread to federal government bonds rising between 1 and 1.5 points.

Howard said yesterday his government is committed to the Telstra sale and tax reform and talked tough about a possible early election despite fears this could aid Hanson's party.

As well, Hanson's success in tapping into the fears of many in the community may also mean the government is prepared to dip into its projected budget surpluses to appease some groups - including rural communities and those affected by high unemployment - that might turn to her at a federal election.

"The budget surpluses will clearly be lower in the future as all parties seek to be a little more populist in order to contain the threat of One Nation," Deutsche Bank economist Ivan Colhoun said.

The government has forecast a budget surplus of A\$2.7 billion in the year to June 30, 1999, and rising to A\$14.6 billion in 2001/02.

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JP SPECIAL PRICE: NIS 79

Albania's woes chill Kosovo nationalist fever

By MARY WILLIAMS WALSH

TIRANA - In cafés and on street corners, anywhere people meet to talk politics in this hard-scrabble capital, a consensus is taking shape: Albanians will do anything for their embattled "brothers" in the neighboring Yugoslav province of Kosovo - anything, that is, except fight for them.

Just over the border, an estimated 250 people have died since February in Kosovo, which is part of Serbia but is 90 percent ethnic Albanian. Serb forces have been trying to suppress an armed insurgency there, by shelling, burning and shooting up villages believed to be along rebel supply lines.

International observers worry that if the fighting in Kosovo escalates, it could spread, perhaps into Albania or Macedonia, even flaring as far off as Greece and Turkey.

But a sampling of opinion here suggests that if the Kosovo conflict does spill over into Albania, it won't be because Albanians have rushed into the breach for their ethnic "brothers" across the mountains. Poverty, hunger and a horror

of renewed anarchy have left them far too exhausted for that.

"Of course, the Albanians are not prepared to go and fight," said Remzi Lani, executive director of the Albanian Media Institute, a UNESCO-funded foundation. "People are very tired, very busy just surviving. Most of them want to leave the country. If you want to leave the country, you don't want to fight. They will offer their solidarity, but that is the maximum that they will do."

To be sure, the Kosovo conflict raises tremendous new risks for the rump Yugoslavia, made up of Serbia and its tiny partner Montenegro.

But the border combat is especially troubling for Albania, a volatile, grindingly poor "developing democracy" that gets more foreign aid per capita than anywhere else in Europe. Already, an estimated 14,000 Kosovo refugees have crossed into Albania, straining its facilities to the breaking point: hundreds more come daily.

The fighting-age males among them have begun using the rugged Albanian far north as a guerrilla resupply zone. "It's a kind of Ho Chi Minh Trail," said Lani. Thousands in Pristina, the

Kosovan capital, protested the Serbian military campaign last Wednesday, in Tirana. Meanwhile the opposition leader has been trying to whip up a nationalist fever, calling the prime minister "an enemy of the Albanian nation" for not doing more to help the "blessed" Kosovo rebels.

ALL THE political parties mouth the nationalist slogan, "One Nation, One Direction," and the parliament already has recognized Kosovo as an independent state, though the government has not.

Recently, a newspaper in Tirana went so far as to print an impassioned plea that Albanians stop selling their Kalashnikov assault rifles to the Kosovo insurgents and offer them free instead. Ask an Albanian what he thinks about the residents of Kosovo and he will almost invariably respond, "They are our brothers." But probe deeper and it becomes clear that these are "brothers" who were completely cut off from each other for 45 years, because of Albania's uniquely harsh brand of isolationist Communism. And now that the two halves of the family are getting reacquainted, they are finding they don't really have all that

much in common any more - or even like each other all that much. During the long years of their dictatorship, Albanians - if they thought of the Kosovo cousins at all - pictured them as the lucky owners of houses, land, and two or three cars.

The Kosovo residents, meanwhile, developed a rose-colored dream of Albania as the national motherland, a paradise with no dominating Serbs to push their kind around. Kosovans dreamed of one day reuniting their partitioned "nation" into a Greater Albania.

But no sooner had the Albanian dictatorship fallen in 1991 than these illusions were shattered.

"The first foreign businessman to arrive in Albania was from Kosovo," recalled Sokol Ballal, a journalist in Tirana. "They showed us the face of capitalism for the first time, and believe me, it was not a pretty face."

Arriving over Albania's destroyed roads, the Kosovans brought cheap imports for sale at unheard-of prices. One set up what is said to be the first of this country's notorious pyramid investment schemes.

"Before, we had a kind of fruit

juice we could buy for half a lek," said Emin Barci, a young economist relaxing in a Tirana bar on a recent afternoon, referring to the Albanian currency. "But when the Kosovans came here, they started selling the same juice for three leks..."

"We were coming from the most absolute poverty that existed in the world," he added. "And under the Communist regime, we had been taught that no one should steal and that capitalism robs the workers through the market."

Asked whether he would support the Kosovo liberation movement now, Barci said, "Personally, I care. We are all brothers over there. But there is no need to rally, or to furnish them with weapons and ammunition. Whatever they need, they took last year."

He was referring to the violence that swept Albania in March 1997, when national arms depots were sacked and huge quantities of weaponry were stolen. Many of the guns are believed to have found their way into the hands of the Kosovo Liberation Army, the shadowy insurgency now fighting for the province's independence.

Further chilling any nationalist fever here in Albania is this country's continuing economic woes of a scale unimaginable elsewhere in Europe. Though the economy's free fall has been halted since the anarchy of last year, a full 30 percent to 40 percent of the work force remains unemployed, the Labor Ministry says. Desperate factories left from the Communist "self-sufficiency" days stand idle and rotting under the scorching sun.

Even those lucky enough to have a job in these circumstances are unsure of getting a paycheck. The state-owned companies that provide water, electricity and telephone service here provide jobs - but few customers have the means or desire to pay their bills. The prime minister himself recently had his phone disconnected for nonpayment.

Strapped for cash, the utilities are often months behind on payrolls and can't make repairs.

The result is a merry-go-round of strikes, broken water mains, overheated transformers, water cuts and blackouts - and more customer refusals to pay.

Garbage collection is a non-starter idea even here, and the streets and lanes of the cities are awash in trash.

This all adds up to an enormous

deterrent to any potential investor who might be tempted to build up a business and create jobs in Albania - and that's not even mentioning the armed gangs who roam the countryside, picking off passing cars and trucks.

Not surprisingly, hundreds of thousands of Albanians - an estimated one-third of the population - have fled this catastrophe, to Italy, Greece, Switzerland and Germany. There, they take the menial jobs no one else wants and send the money home to their families. Each day in Tirana, throngs can be seen jostling for visas in front of the German Embassy, and newspapers give extensive coverage to Greece's deployment of tanks along its border with Albania, to stop the flow of human misery.

Against this backdrop, the decades-old dream of uniting Kosovo and Albania as a "Greater Albania" has taken a distant second to sheer survival. If people here dream at all at the moment, it's not that Albania will unite with Kosovo, but simply that their country will remain stable long enough to start bridging the chasm between themselves and the rest of Europe. (Los Angeles Times)

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Pavarotti & Celine Dion join forces

Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti congratulates Canadian pop singer Celine Dion after their joint charity performance in Modena, Italy last week for the construction of a children's village in Liberia. (AP)

Sean Lennon: Like father, like 'Sun'

In Tune



By David Brinn

For a five-year-old, Sean Lennon's *Into the Sun* is simply amazing. Oops, I forgot that Sean, the little boy with the

this is a promising beginning for a clearly talented offspring, who seems to have received a liberal gene pool sprinkling between his father and his more experimental, avant-garde mother, artist Yoko Ono.

Lennon runs all over the musical spectrum. From the slow ragged buildup and Soundgarden-influenced alt-rock choruses on "Mystery Juice" and "Home" to the cheesy cocktail bossa nova of the title track to the, well, Beatlesque melodies throughout, he's bursting with ideas. Sometimes, however, they lead nowhere, like on the muzak jazz of "Photosynthesis" and the pointless, hokey "Cowboy Trilogy." (Beware of any pop song with the word "trilogy" in the title.)

His voice is high and thin and surprisingly still adolescent. But he's got his father's vocal phrasings and, occasionally, a passage will jar the listener into a double take.

Lennon has inherited another trait from his parents - collaboration with his significant other. In this case, girlfriend Yuka Honda provides multi-instrumentation, produced the disc, and is the inspiration for many of the lyrics.

Between the self-indulgent hippie-diddle clapping on *Into the Sun*, there's also a fair share of musical magic. With this disc alone, Sean has already surpassed the efforts of his half-brother Julian.

Beatles, haircut and sad almond-shaped eyes which were photographed everywhere following the murder of his father, John Lennon, is now an adult of 23.

Well, then, let's revise that to say

early versions of their now-famous songs.

The boys booked studio time in 1995 to lay down these tracks so they could press their own CD to use as a lure to the major record companies. What it proves is that someone at their future record company had the savvy to hear the talent behind the cracking vocals and mumbled drum beats.

But hearing the trio perform a sluggish, pre-pop gloss shine "Mimmbop" is not exactly the same as finding rough demos of Brian Wilson composing *Pet Sounds*. What next - Hanson: *The Kindergarten Years*? Of course, to do that, they'd only have to go back to 1994.

HOTHOUSE FLOWERS was one of the few bands that actually almost lived up to its hype. Incongruously bursting onto the music scene as a featured performer during the 1988 Eurovision contest in their native Ireland, the band came off as a vibrant hybrid of U2 and Van Morrison. Passionate, soulful Irish rock.

By 1993, the passion had dissipated and the band took a long sabbatical. Regrouping this year in a stripped-down format, *Born* is a not entirely successful attempt to recapture the band's enthusiasm. "You Can Love Me Now" harkens back to the U2-style anthems that used to rule their roost; but compared to their previous heights, most of the material is pedestrian and unexceptional.

Born has its fine moments, but it sadly points to a decline in the legacy of Hothouse Flowers. IT'S refreshing that after pedophil-



Bursting with ideas: Lennon Jr. makes a move

ia and linguistic strife, something sweet has come out of Belgium besides Godiva chocolate.

K's Choice, led by the sibling team of Sarah and Gert Betens, alludes to the character Josef K. from Franz Kafka's book *The Trial*. *Cocoon Crash* is a collection of folksy, somber songs reminiscent of Suzanne Vega, though on first listen they could be mistaken for the Indigo Girls. Gert and Sarah's voices have very similar, hoarse tones, and their harmonies are the highlight.

This summer, the group will be joining Sarah McLachlan's traveling female singer-songwriters festival aptly named Lilith's Fan.

TRICKY. He's considered a musical genius by the pop press, the leading light in trip-hop, the anything-goes genre combining a hip-hop base, psychedelic embellishments and sample, studio effects and improvisation.

His new disc, *Angels with Dirty Faces*, is as difficult and complex as 1996's award-winning *Pre-Millennium Tension*. It's not music in the traditional sense, but it is something new. If this is where rock & roll is headed, we'd better give it a listen to decide if we want to go along for the ride or stay at home.

Tricky's genius, if you can call it that, is forcing us to make that decision.

'Carmen' reduced to story of a man and a horse



ISRAEL FESTIVAL REVIEWS

Salvador Tavora and his company did the impossible. They took the dramatic story of Carmen, stripped it of all essential elements, and ended up with what turned out to be a story about a man and a horse.

This production of *Carmen* was promoted as an Andalusian Opera, accompanied by a marching band. It is loosely based on the story of *Carmen*, with only a few excerpts from Bizet's passionate music. The void is filled with Andalusian style songs and the screeches of that bugles and drums band.

One wrong choice led to another.

Lalo Tejeda (*Carmen*) doesn't have it. A plain dancer, she totally lacks real passion or any dramatic skills. Instead she keeps stiff arms and shoulders, grimaces and spreads her fingers to convey despair. The rest of the dancers didn't do enough to do any justice to their craft, instead following

CARMEN
By Salvador Tavora
La Cuedra de Sevilla
Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center
June 12

Tavora's most inane directions wholeheartedly.

In one scene for example, Don Jose, *Carmen's* lover, knives a fellow officer out of jealousy. He takes *Carmen's* white wedding veil and drapes it over the officer, who motionlessly awaits his fate. Don Jose stabs him several times, zred blood squirts all over, then the victim steps backward slowly,

politely, as if not to disturb the stains. He is out, and Don Jose smiles for the first time and starts a happy tap.

Even more ludicrous is the execution dance with the victim, the hangman, yards of rope and three inquisitors. This absurd fiasco ends as *Carmen*, recovered from the execution she had just witnessed, falls for a man on a white horse. In fact, it seems like she is quite taken by a man and a horse. The horse takes center stage, waves his tail and takes a bow. That's what you get when you castrate *Carmen*.

IN A trombone solo recital, an exceptionally rare event, Sweden's Christian Lindberg displayed the instrument's enormous versatility. Its glorious sound blows fanfares, but also sings, even soulfully and softly, sighs, laughs, cries, and emits all kinds of imaginable and unimaginable tones.

There is nothing, apparently, that

Lindberg cannot do with his trombone. In Gregorian chants and medieval dances he lets the instrument sing pure, sonorous, enchanting melodic lines. In Telemann's and Bach's (arranged) *Fantasia* and Suite it also dances, often downright elegantly and gracefully.

In modern pieces by Berio, Cage and the Swedish Jan Sandstrom, Lindberg also reveals his capacity for simultaneously acting, clown-

TROMBONE RECITAL
Christian Lindberg
Khan Theater
June 12

ing, and singing, or alternating this with blowing his trombone, dissecting it and ducting with a magnetic tape. What it all amounts to is an amusing one-man show with trombone, belonging to the genre of humor in music, and performed with astonishing virtuosity and mostly good taste.

THE English Florestan Trio's playing of works by Haydn, Beethoven and Dvorak was warm-blooded and vibrant.

FLORESTAN TRIO
Piano trios by Haydn, Beethoven and Dvorak
Jerusalem Theater
June 11

Liveliness and passion struck an enjoyable balance with a refined aesthetic sense, well-developed feeling for style, and technical polish.

In their playing, the music flows naturally and creates an atmosphere of complete intimacy, resulting from mutual attentiveness and a lack of emphasis on each player's ego. What counts for these players is the music itself and the spirit of perfect teamwork - for the benefit of the works and the audience.

Ury Eppstein

Honors for British thespians

Actor Ian Holm and playwright David Hare are the latest knights of the English stage. Both received knighthoods in the queen's birthday honors list announced over the weekend.

John Mortimer, creator of *Rumpole of the Bailey*, and conductor John Eliot Gardiner, a maverick whose prodigious output includes more than 150 recordings and the founding of several musical bodies, also received knighthoods.

Stage director Peter Brook was made a Companion of Honor, an exclusive order for people who have done "conspicuous national service." In more than a half-century of stage work, Brook has won praise for classics, as well as experimental theater. His films include 1963's *Lord of the Flies*.

Ian Holm, 66, received a 1981

Oscar nomination for his role as an athletics coach in *Chariots of Fire*, and played *King Lear* this year on stage and TV to critical acclaim.

Sir David Hare, the 51-year-old anti-establishment playwright, has achieved great success in London and on Broadway with a string of acclaimed plays, including *Skyline* and *Amy's View*.

It was a very good year for honors in all areas of the arts. Peter Cattaneo, director of *The Full Monty*, received an MBE (Member of the Order of British Empire) honor, as did jazz singer Carol Kidd and Northern Ireland poet and playwright Damian Gorman.

In descending order, the honors are life peerage, knighthoods, CBE, MBE and OBE. The Companion of Honor is limited to 65 people at any one time.

(AP)

Students prove themselves in LIBI benefit



The students' orchestras are first and foremost educational musical bodies, and there's no reason for the Symphony Orchestra of the Rubin Academy of Music at Tel Aviv University to be different. The gala concert in honor of the Soldiers' Welfare Fund's (LIBI) 18th anniversary

was an impressive event, which had an educational and maybe social, rather than musical, value.

LIBI GALA CONCERT
The Rubin Academy
Symphony Orchestra
Noga Theater
June 10

That said, accompanying the excellent pianist Semion Krachin - who offered the most reserved and utterly introverted rendition of Mozart's Concerto in D Minor K.

466, which was mesmerizing - the students proved that they can play even better than some of our established orchestras.

After the intermission, Noam Sheriff returned to the podium and led the forces on the stage (The Bat Kol Choir, the Children's Choir of the Israeli Conservatory of Music, and young alto Anat Iy) through Mahler's monumental Third Symphony, which was obviously too heavy for the uneven youth ensemble, technically and philosophically alike.

The orchestra's concert master

Zohar Lerner again turned in a mature violin performance.

Maxim Reider

YOAV TALMI led the Israel Sinfonietta this week. His approach to Haydn's Symphony No. 49 "La Passione" was clean and objective, his gestures large and vigorous.

Soloist Matt Haimovitz's sensitive, compelling performance of Shostakovich's celebrated Cello Concerto, op. 107 was forward moving. He dug into moto perpetuo sections while the orchestra surged towards rhythmic free-

dom. Hornist Roman Kort was notable. The hard-surfaced string

ISRAEL SINFONIETTA
Cello works by Haydn, Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky
Beersheba Conservatory
June 13

sound in Tchaikovsky's Sextet, op. 70 "Souvenir of Florence" was faultless, though unrelenting and unyielding tempi suppressed the work's expressive and emotional ambiguity.

Max Stern

NEWS

of the muse

Coexistence, Peki'in style

The third Peki'in Community Theater Festival takes place July 2-4 with plays from local and visiting Arab, Jewish and Druse amateur actors, an Arab wedding carnival, street theater, dance groups from here and abroad as well as workshops and activities for the kids.

Shows include *The Flying Grandmother* performed by deaf members of the Major Community Center, *Diwan*, a traditional Arab song and storytelling show, and *Voices from the North*, a children's play in Arabic. Druse, Moslems, Christians and Jews have been living amicably together in this Galilee town for generations and they like to export the idea that coexistence is possible.

Helen Kaye

Hip, Hip, Hip-Hop!

Rappers heaven is imminent. Starting June 23 at the City Hall Club in Haifa, the Galgalatz radio program Black Business goes live with countrywide shows by visiting and local DJs, rap and hip-hop stars. Visitors include hip-hopster/rapper Babee Power from the US, rapper Funky DL, and DJ Paris from the UK. New York's DJ G.A.B.I.E and Rahzel - Godfather of Noize, whose fractured singing style will be new to Israelis. Featured locals are The Snake Fish, The 8 Team, and Shabak S. The series aims at attracting a wider audience than the dedicated rappers who listen to the late night radio program, and will be hosted by Liron Tanny and Kwami who are its DJs. Sponsors include Camelot, the British Council, Galgalatz, and Pringles. The first series with Power, G.A.B.I.E, and Snake Fish tours Haifa, Tel Aviv, Hatzor, Jerusalem and Holon through June 27.

Helen Kaye

Israeli 'Bug' wins big

Daniel Adar's film *Bug* has won the Judges Prize in its category at the Jewish Film Festival at the Magnes Museum in California. *Bug* tells the interlocking stories of three friends. Adar, a 12th grader at Tel Aviv's Ironi Aleph high-school, made the video film as his graduating project. The prize-giving is June 24 at the Art Museum of the University of California at Berkeley.

Helen Kaye

More local triumphs abroad

Choreographers Barak Marshall and Inbal Pinto made waves at the recent Zagreb Festival and at St. Brieux in France with Marshall's *Emma Goldman's Wedding*, which recently won top prizes at the Bagnolet Dance Festival, and with Pinto's *Duet and Wrapped*. The Jerusalem Khan Theater's *Ana Galactia* played to packed houses at the Brussels Fine Arts Festival at the end of May and won praise from the play's author, Howard Barker, who attended the local premiere.

Helen Kaye

David's cantors

Cantors Naftali Herzig, his gifted son Shraga, Chaim Adler, Chaim Eliezer Herzig, and Ya'akov Orzech are among the headlineers at the annual cantorial concert at the Tower of David Museum on June 23. The concert, which also celebrates Israel's jubilee, includes the world premiere of songs of praise composed by Yossele Rosenblatt, one of the most renowned cantors of his day.

Helen Kaye

International folklore festival in Israel

Some 350 dancers from 13 countries will participate in the 13th International Folklore and Dance Festival which will be celebrated countrywide from June 25 to July 9. Visiting companies include flag dancers from Belgium, dancers from Sicily, a children's troupe from Australia, nine Zulu dancers from South Africa and groups from Taiwan, Kazakhstan, Kamchatka, Bolivia and Costa Rica, among others.

To honor the jubilee, the festival dancers will also participate in some of the events at the Karmiel Dance Festival and the Nigunim '98 festival in the Western Galilee. Venues include the major cities, the Golan and the Galilee border settlements. Many of the performances are free and many start with a colorful street parade. The festival is sponsored by Matat, a local organization which promotes cultural dialogue through exchange.

Helen Kaye

Sophia Loren to act for Antonioni

Sophia Loren and director Michelangelo Antonioni are planning a movie together.

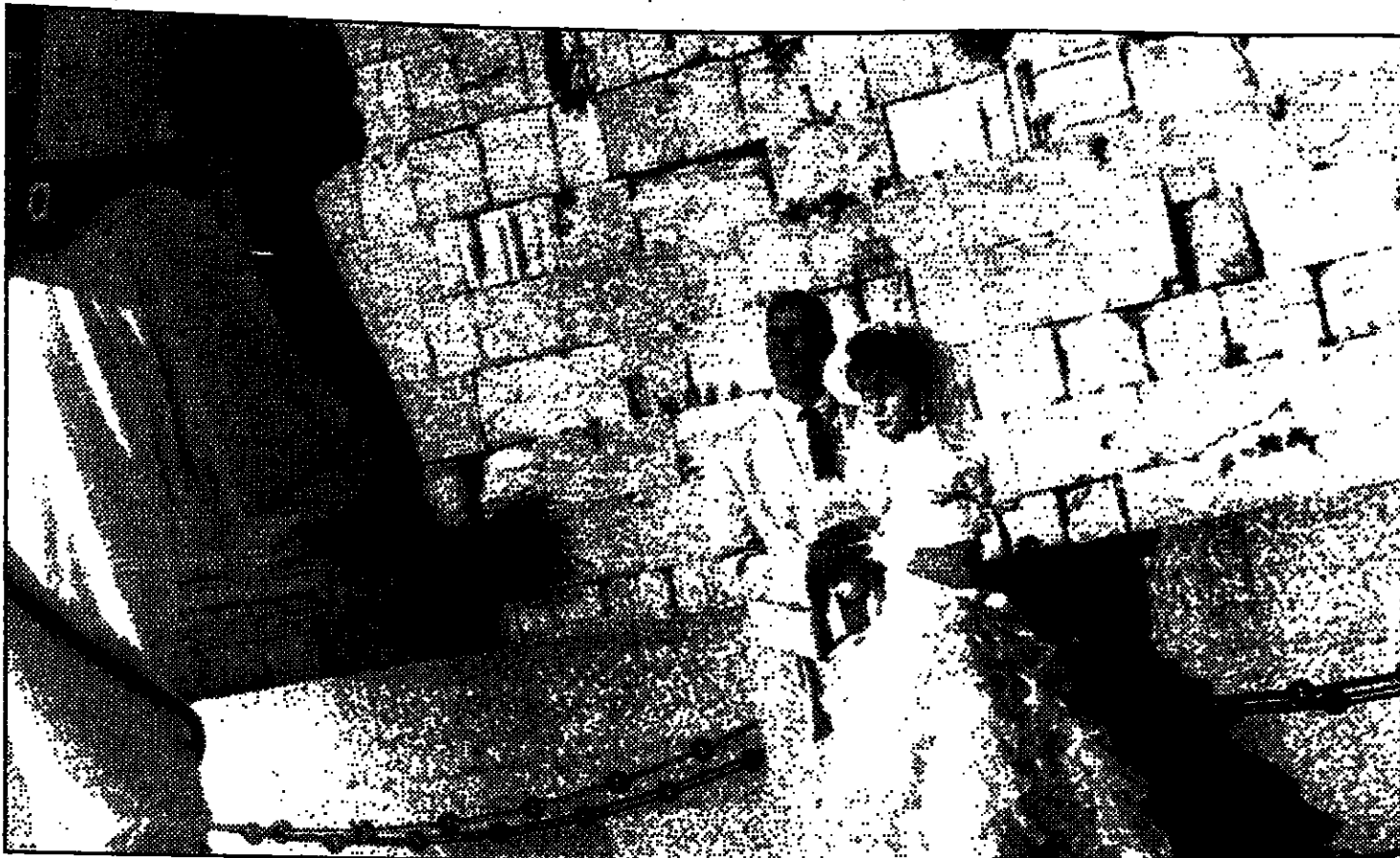
"It's an extraordinary role written especially for me," the Italian actress told the ANSA news agency.

Loren said the project, her first with Antonioni, has a working title of *Verna*. Further details were unavailable.

The 85-year-old Antonioni, who directed *Blow Up*, has been hampered by the effects of a stroke in recent years. He last directed a movie in 1994, and won a lifetime achievement Oscar in 1995. (AP)

Lively
debate
JEVELYN GORDON

העדה החרדית



Traditional pre-nuptial shots at the Western Wall: More worldly Israelis are moving away from the familiar, well-trodden wedding path – even writing parts of the ceremony themselves. (Nissan Shorer)

An extraordinary affair

In the last of a four-part series, Larry Derfner looks at the Israelis who scorn the typical 'display' wedding, opting instead for a more restrained affair that expresses their tastes and individuality



In his 1997 book *Rubber Bullets*, Hebrew University political scientist Prof. Yaron Ezrahi wrote about the "poverty of Israeli individualism," arguing that the basic conflict in this country is between those who want to break away from that poverty and those who want to preserve it.

they're noisy, and they're ostentatious in a kitschy way."

But among better-educated, more worldly Israelis, there is a growing tendency to get married in exactly the opposite way, Ezrahi noted. A wedding sends a very large message, and "You would expect people from a higher educational background to give a more creative message about how they approach life."

Such newlyweds may write parts of the ceremony themselves – which means they must recruit a liberal-minded rabbi who's willing to go along with their program. The posts and speeches are personal, familiar – referring to the characters and histories of the couple – instead of rote and clichéd.

The setting is usually out in

nature. The music is frequently classical. Even the bride's gown tends to be different, "more colorful, more exposed, less formal, rather hippyish," Ezrahi said.

Such Israeli weddings are more often found in the environs of Jerusalem than in Greater Tel Aviv, he continued, because Jerusalem is more modest and less materialistically inclined. These affairs compare favorably with American weddings, "which can be so sentimental that you want to run away," he noted.

Maybe Ezrahi is describing the Israeli "countercultural" wedding, or maybe it's the wedding of the cultural elite – or maybe they're the same thing.

And while such couples would

never turn their weddings into typically Israeli displays of wealth or power, no doubt some use them, knowingly or not, as displays of sophistication, to show how much "better" they are than the common, tasteless Israeli.

Shira, 21, and Oren, 23, can't be considered members of the counterculture or cultural elite, although Shira may have her eye on getting there.

Raised in the most ordinary of Israeli cities, Petah Tikva, she has just moved to Tel Aviv and hopes to get accepted to acting school. Oren, who seems a more practical sort, is about to begin studying special education at Ben-Gurion University.

Not a couple, both work at a record store in Dizengoff Center, and while neither has any plans on getting married soon, each has given a lot of thought to how they want their future weddings to be – and how they don't want them to be.

From what Oren has seen, the typical Israeli wedding is "dolled-up, trivial, stereotyped," he wants his to be meaningful, unique. He sees his wedding somewhere out in nature, not in a banquet hall, with food that would be a celebration of Israeli ethnicity – "every-



The venue is a fancy hall, the theme, Lady Luck: Those who opt for 'countercultural' weddings are turning away in disdain from what they see as 'dolled-up, trivial spectacles.' (Isaac Harari)

thing from gefilte fish to couscous." It must be kosher, though. Oren, who described himself as "secular-traditional," wants "a Jewish wedding in every way."

The music might be klezmer, jazz or reggae – but above all it must be something that's special to Oren and his future bride.

"Instead of playing [Ahinoam Nini's] *Bo i Kalla* like you hear at every wedding, or [pop opera singer] Emma Shaplin, I might want something by... Van Morrison," Oren suggested.

Shira expressed even greater disdain for the standard Israeli wedding, saying, "Later on, when I get married, I may compromise – but for now I'm very adamant about what I want."

She will wear a minimum of make-up – "not like these brides

you can hardly recognize." The food will be "simple and tasty, not lemon parfait or these bizarre things they serve. I want people to know what they're eating." There will not be hundreds of guests she hardly knows – not "my uncle's brother-in-law's partner, but people whose faces I want to see," she said.

Both Oren and Shira said they wanted a traditional Orthodox ceremony with a traditional Orthodox rabbi – Oren because that's what he believes in, Shira because she "wanted to show respect to her parents and grandparents." And both had to admit they wanted mainly checks as presents.

"This is the one thing I want to be practical about," said Shira. "It's not easy for a young couple to set up a household in this coun-

try. So I want money."

"But from my best friends I'd like to get really special presents, something that showed they were thinking about me. Something that came from their souls."

Shira and Oren aren't hippies, they're just bright young Israelis who think for themselves. And they've come to the conclusion that when they have a wedding – the event that says so much about a couple, their families, their friends, their community – they don't want to do it the typical Israeli way.

They don't want a spectacle, or a status show, or an assembly-line affair that reflects the "poverty of Israeli individualism." They aspire to something richer.

As Oren pointed out: "It's supposed to be the happiest day of your life, isn't it?"



Groom David Weinlick, with some of the 23 candidates who applied to be his bride – he left the choice to family and friends. (AP)

Mall-order marriage

Four years ago, David Weinlick said, he grew tired of being asked when he was going to get married, so he came up with a stock answer: June 13, 1998. Rochelle Olson reports

David Weinlick had known for years when he wanted to get married. He knew where the wedding would be held, and who the guests would be. He just hadn't picked a bride.

A couple of dozen adventurous women from several states showed up Saturday at a "bridal candidate mixer" in Bloomington, Minnesota, to brave questioning by Weinlick's friends and relatives, whose votes determined that Elizabeth Runze would be his bride.

Soon after the selection, the two 28-year-olds exchanged vows at the Mall of America. About 2,000 shoppers lined the rails to watch from the mall's rounds.

Runze, a slender redhead, wore a short-sleeved white dress with a full skirt and a fitted bodice embroidered with flowers, a short veil and elbow-length gloves. Her father walked her down the aisle and her parents, who are divorced, gave her away. The groom wore a black

tauxedo. A minister friend of Weinlick's conducted the brief ceremony. Balloons fell from the ceiling and the crowd cheered as the couple kissed.

"I can hardly stand much less talk," Runze, a pharmacy student, said shortly after she was selected. "This is the most incredible day of my life."

Before the wedding, Weinlick said he was "elated" and called the event "an enormous success."

Weinlick's friend Steven Fletcher said the two had similar interests and senses of humor and were a good fit intellectually.

Annette Runze said her daughter talked to Weinlick, a tall thin blond who sports a ponytail, for the first time Monday when she dropped off her application. She said she and Elizabeth's father support the marriage.

"She's very serious about it. She's very committed to the idea and so is he. They'll probably be married 67

years." The four finalists were among the five bridesmaids.

Weinlick is a graduate student in anthropology, and his marriage plan played out like some sort of weird social experiment.

Four years ago, Weinlick said, he grew tired of being asked when he was going to get married, so he came up with a stock answer: June 13, 1998.

Weinlick's parents divorced when he was five. His father, who criticized the event, did not attend. His mother, Sylvia Lambert, watched from the front row and issued a statement saying she supported her son's decision.

Despite the ceremony, the match wasn't exactly binding. Minnesota requires a three-day waiting period for a marriage to become official.

The couple planned to attend a reception at one of the mall's nightclubs, America Live, but were unsure about their wedding night or honeymoon plans. (AP)

Are you having butterflies?

By ROXANNE ROBERTS

Wedding season is once again upon us, bringing love, joy and those charming little touches for the big day.

The latest trend at the romantic, environmentally correct American marriage ceremony is the live butterfly display.

As the bride and groom walk down the aisle after the ceremony, guests release butterflies to create a fluttering, picture-perfect moment. "It's fabulous," says Janet Wells, wedding consultant at the Vintage Bride in Clarksburg, Md. "What I like to say is, 'Butterfly kisses to the new mister and missus.'"

There's just one problem: Sometimes the butterflies are... well, dead, which puts a damper on the celebration. "Forget it," says wedding planner Rita Bloom of Creative Parties in Bethesda, Md. "I would never do it again."

Why butterflies? Throwing rice is out because it's bad for birds, says Marc McIntosh, producer of the Washington Bridal Showcase. Birdseed was popular until people started slipping and it became a "liability issue." Balloons' deflation remains are not good for the environment. And everybody's doing those little bottles of soap

bubbles or disposable cameras at the reception.

The butterfly boom began about three years ago, and is especially popular at outdoor weddings, says Cassie Shockton of Butterfly Celebration in Shafter, Calif. More and more brides-to-be are surfing the Internet and discovering the wedding butterfly online.

Most companies pack the butterflies individually in small triangular boxes with air holes. The insects arrive in chrysalid form and are timed to hatch inside the boxes two to three days before the wedding. Some companies deliver butterflies that have already hatched to ensure a greater survival rate.

At the ceremony, each guest is handed a box with instructions to open it at a specific time. Like everything else associated with weddings, the butterflies are expensive, averaging \$3 to \$4 apiece for 100 monarch or painted lady butterflies.

"It isn't for everybody, but it's a very special effect," says Michele Monnier of Brides & Butterflies in Adamsburg, Pa. "It's expensive, but the photography is priceless," adds Wells, who has supervised 10 butterfly weddings over the past year.

The key is preparing the butterflies properly. "You have to raise

them, basically," says Wells. "You have to be very delicate."

Wells has the butterflies shipped to her shop, where she can control the air temperature. The night before the wedding, she peeks inside every box to make sure there is a little creature moving about. At the ceremony, Wells likes to gather the guests in a circle with the bride and groom in the middle.

The butterflies are released, flutter around the circle, and everybody gasps in admiration. "It sounds romantic, but it's a real downer when the butterflies are dead," says Bloom.

Bloom planned two weddings featuring butterflies last year: The first went off without a hitch, but that bride's family hired a butterfly handler. At the second wedding, the 150 guests each received a butterfly box; at least half were definitely not fluttering.

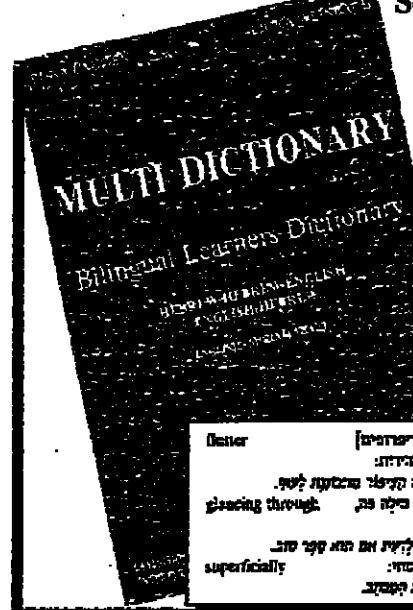
"It was unpleasant," says Bloom. "I've had several brides ask me since, but I discourage it. Even when it works, I don't want you to talk about the butterflies. I want you to talk about the bride."

"And from a planner's point of view, I can't risk things that I have absolutely no control over. It's too scary. I don't want to disappoint anybody." (The Washington Post)

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Girl meets geek

Let's get one thing straight, I don't approve of fortune-hunting.

I truly believe that one should choose one's life-mate for love, not money. But at the same time, it is impossible to ignore the fact that nothing eats away at true love faster than an over-draft at the bank.

This is not to say that the affluent enjoy perfect relationships. But if I were a young, single woman looking for Mr. Right, serious wealth would certainly score any man a few points. After all, surely there must be very few problems that can't be solved on a private yacht cruising the Greek islands.

The exciting thing about life in the '90s is that the nature of millionaires has changed radically. More women than ever now have the chance to marry one.

In the 1970s and 1980s, only a supermodel with an encyclopedic knowledge of Paris couture and fine restaurants could hope to catch a millionaire – either a slicked-back Wall Street type or a playboy modeling himself after Hugh Hefner or Donald Trump, with fancy suits, expensive cars and – the key accessory – a beautiful woman.

But the 1990s ushered in a new era of men with big bucks, an era that could be called The Revenge of the Geeks.

Exhibit A is obviously

came across a valuable resource entitled "A Girl's Guide to Geek Guys" by Mikki Halpin and Victoria Maat.

The following is a summary of their helpful tips in landing what they call "a man of substance, quietude and stability, a cerebral creature with a culture all his own. In short... a geek."

To meet the geek, our guides suggest that one browse computer stores wearing T-shirts bearing software company logos, a natural conversation-starter for the notoriously shy geek. (Note: make sure you have a clue as to what this brand of software actually does.)

Also, since many geeks tend to be science fiction fanatics, gatherings of Star Trek fans are also good hunting grounds.

Halpin and Maat warn: "If you're not up on your Star Trek, you can forget about getting or keeping a geek dude. And we're not just talking vintage-era Captain Kirk and Spock either. You've got to be up on your The Next Generation, your Deep Space Nine, your Babylon 5."

But since a geek spends the vast majority of his time actually parked in front of the computer, the best place to find him is in cyberspace, allowing him to combine an activity he is comfortable with, computing, with one he is very uncomfortable with,



Home Front

In the '90s the nature of millionaires has changed radically. More women than ever now have the chance to marry one

Microsoft guru Bill Gates, who, despite being the richest guy in the universe, still doesn't know how to dress.

The local prototype of the new millionaire is personified by the two 20-somethings with long, scruffy locks and a dusting of facial hair who sold their Mirabilis company to America Online last week. Looking at their faces staring out from the business pages, one could swear that the photo department had accidentally replaced the photographs of the successful businessmen with those of alternative rock stars.

But no, these guys had just had \$60 million dumped in each of their laps by the US Internet giant – with more millions on the way.

Now Bill Gates married a Microsoft colleague, a logical step. After all, if he never ventures off of the Seattle campus, who else is he going to meet?

But what about those women who don't actually work in the computer world, yet are looking to meet these intriguing young rich computer jockeys? Hooking up with them isn't as simple as sinking around expensive restaurants or crashing high-society cocktail parties.

Always interested in helping my single friends find love (and in hopes that once they do, they'll invite me aboard their yachts) I surfed the Internet for advice and

socializing," say Halpin and Maat. While the average woman may find it easier to land a date with a '90s geek millionaire than back then with his slick, cool '70s counterpart, Halpin and Maat warn that it takes special qualities to maintain a long-term relationship with a geek – most importantly acceptance.

Geeks are sensitive creatures who likely spent much of their childhood and young adulthood as outsiders, ridiculed for their lack of athletic ability and technological obsessions. So, once you've got a geek, refrain from trying to mold him into the image of the latest rock star or movie idol. Don't fight his workaholicism or the fact that he is "permanently attached to his hard disk." At the same time, muster enough computer knowledge to at least fake an interest in how the thing works.

And finally: Never, ever "try to force the issue, or make crazy demands that he choose between his computer and you. Remember, his computer has been there for him his whole life; you are a new interloper he hasn't quite grasped yet."

With these important tips in mind, girls, I wish you happy hunting! And I hope that you and your chosen geek, will – as they say on Star Trek – "live long and prosper."

Talking it out – with a dog

Canines understand more than we might think, animal communicator Diana Beuchert tells Sandra Crockett, whose terrier Louie seemed more serene and secure after a telepathic counseling session



Diana Beuchert with her dog, Louie. Beuchert says she doesn't really hear words from any animal: "I get the emotion."

pen to him."

I nod.

"Is he going to stay with you?" she asks.

Absolutely.

"That's what he is worried about. He is an insecure little thing. Maybe he was abandoned when he was very young."

Louie came to me by way of the Baltimore County Animal Shelter. And if pressed to describe Louie's personality, I would say he is adorable, loving, but somewhat on the nervous side. But, wait. "There is someone else in the house he is terribly worried about," Beuchert says.

Uh-oh. For the last few years, my mother has been living with me but will move in with other relatives once the house is sold. Louie is attached to her. When she is not home, he positions himself at the living

room window and waits patiently until her car pulls into the driveway. Then he practically does back flips.

"He sees you as the one who takes care of him, but he sees himself as taking care of the other person. He is insecure, but he is also a generous little soul because he is very concerned about this person."

I explain that my mother will be well taken care of, as will Louie.

Beuchert is quiet, communicating this important information to Louie.

How did he take it, I want to know.

"He's OK, now. Happy to know this," she says.

Beuchert is quiet but the connection with Louie is apparently broken. "He's through with me now. He has completely blown me off," she says.

This is weird. Diana Beuchert knows it. I know it. The question is, does Louie know it? Beuchert and I are game. Louie isn't talking. Louie can't talk. He is an eight-year-old terrier/Schnauzer/who-knows-dog-with-whom-Beuchert-is-attempting-to-communicate.

Beuchert is an animal communicator. And "reaching" animals is what Robert Redford's title character does in his new movie *The Horse Whisperer*.

Technically, says Beuchert, *The Horse Whisperer* is about an animal behaviorist, not an animal communicator.

Horse whisperers are said to train horses with a special sensitivity, by reading their body language and whispering to them. What makes this session with Louie even stranger is that Beuchert is attempting to communicate with Louie from afar.

She and I are in her Mount Airy, Maryland, home. Louie is in his (and my) Owings Mills home. "It's all telepathic, which really strikes people as strange," Beuchert says.

Yep. Louie is at home because Beuchert prefers not to have the dog in front of her. "A dog's body language can be distracting," she says. So I brought along a photo of Louie sitting alone in his (and my) favorite chair, an overstuffed blue recliner in the family room, which means he's not too far from the kitchen and his treasured stash of pig ears.

Do I have any questions I want to ask about Louie? OK. Feeling ever so silly, I ask how Louie feels about the impending move he and I are making.

Our house is up for sale. Beuchert looks at Louie's picture. She leans back in her own big comfy recliner, closes her eyes and lets her mind roam. Her two mixed-breed dogs, Thelma and Louise, snuggle at her feet. A couple of very large emu eggs are in a basket not too far away, but more about that later.

"Do you refer to yourself as 'Mom' to Louie?" she asks.

Uh, yeah.

She pauses. I am perched on the end of her sofa, waiting. I don't know what for.

Beuchert says she has an immediate connection with Louie. She explains that it feels as if she is spinning while sitting perfectly still. Some animals, she says, don't wish to be bothered. Maybe they are eating or simply don't want to take the time to "talk" telepathically.

Beuchert is quiet for a few minutes, then says, "He knows something is going on."

I tell her a few pieces of furniture have already been moved out of the house. Beuchert nods.

"He is worried about what is going to hap-

Is it a case of love or money?

Dear Ruthie, I am a divorced, fifty-something man with six children. Even though I was my wife's decision to get a divorce, I must pay steeply for all my children's expenses because this is the law. Even the older two, who are in the army, need lots of money – in spite of the salary they receive from the IDF. This makes it very difficult for me to have a social life. I don't make a bad salary, given Israeli incomes, but it nowhere near covers two households. I am constantly juggling my budget and praying that no unexpected bills arise in a given month (e.g., dentist, private lessons, etc.).

So when I consider asking a woman out to dinner or some other activity, I end up thinking very hard about how badly I really want to go out with her because the whole process is so expensive. This makes me feel terrible, since I do not want to turn the question of my relationships with women (or lack thereof) into something purely related to shekel value.

I know that some women don't mind pay-

ing when out on a date, but this is not something I am comfortable asking at the start. How can I judge how suitable a woman is before going out with her? And how can I go out with many women to find the "right" one if I cannot afford it?

Cheaper Date
Somewhere in Israel

Dear CD,

There is no magic formula for determining whether a given woman is "suitable" prior to getting to know her. In fact, sometimes even getting to know a member of the opposite sex leaves room for uncertainty about this question. And though you attribute your predicament on this score to be the direct result of your financial situation, you might be having similar bouts of wariness even if you had all the money in the world.

You claim not to want to "turn the question of [your] relationships with women... into something purely related to shekel value," yet it appears that this is exactly what you are doing.

A little heart-to-heart talk with yourself might reveal that, in fact, you have been using lack of funds as a cloak of self-protection from the real problems involved in forming attachments. For if budgetary restrictions were to prevent people from finding a suitable mate, nobody earning under a certain income would ever enter into relationships.

The fact that your wife initiated the divorce, which you did not want, may have hurt you so badly that your fear of rejection and abandonment has been getting in the way of your social life. Perhaps the divorce settlement, too, is not as fair as you would have liked – leaving you feeling even more victim-

ized. If so, these are the things you must deal with before looking for the "right" woman. Until you do, you will not be able to be creative about courtship on a tight budget, nor will any woman seem to be suitable enough to warrant the opening of your wallet.

The irony is that once you acknowledge that it is not shekels responsible for your reluctance, you will find it a lot easier to come up with the cash to contribute to your social life. You might even end up meeting a woman who prefers quiet evenings at home getting to know you to painting the town red at your expense.

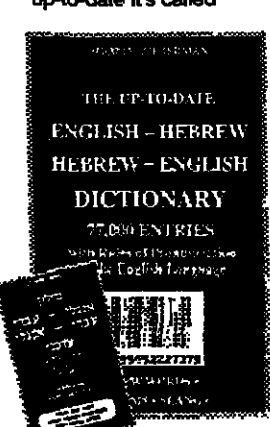
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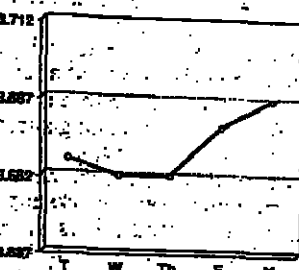
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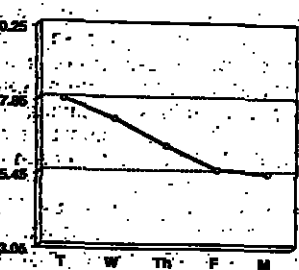


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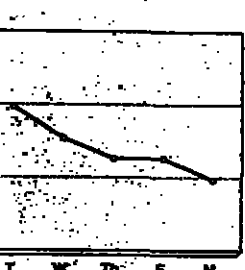
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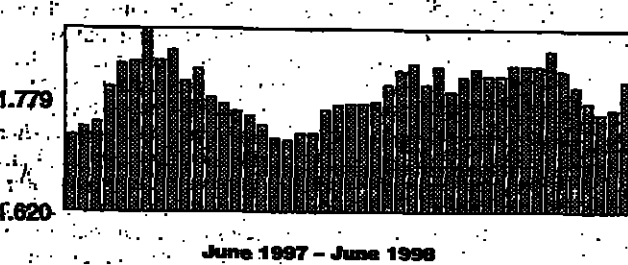


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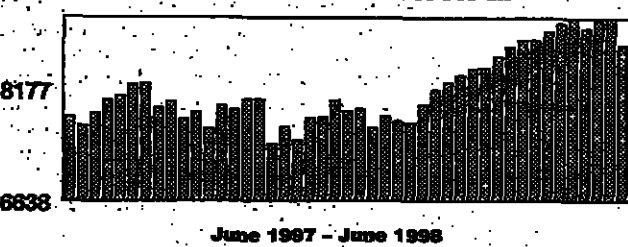
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



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Teva: 2nd quarter results to be significantly lower

By NINA GILBERT

Teva Pharmaceutical Industries announced yesterday that its second quarter results would be adversely affected by a \$30 million drop in revenues from its Clonazepam anti-convulsant drug compared with the same quarter in 1997.

\$40m.

"In a product with high profitability, this is a very unpleasant drop," Teva CEO Eli Hurvitz said yesterday in a conference call. The impact of the drop in the price of Clonazepam on second quarter results "will be significant and more than we expected," he said.

The decline is mostly due to a sharp drop in prices for the drug in the face of intense competition in the market, the company said. In the second quarter of 1997, the drug sales amounted to some \$40m.

growth in sales in the rest of the Petah Tikva-based company. However, he said better sales are expected in June. In the first quarter of the year, Teva's net income dropped 20%, mostly due to lower sales of Clonazepam.

CPI up
0.4%;
Jobseekers
down 0.2%

By DAVID HARRIS

The consumer price index (CPI) rose 0.4 percent last month, in line with most forecasts, taking the index to 155.9, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Employment Service reported a seasonally adjusted 0.2% decline in the number of jobseekers in May. Inflation is now running at an annual 4.5%, according to the bureau, with the CPI rising 1.8% since January. In the same period last year the index had already doubled that total.

The various other indexes published yesterday were more than three times lower than their rate at the end of May 1997.

The key contributors to the rise last month were seasonal increases in the costs of fruit and vegetables and clothing and footwear.

These were offset to some extent by a cut in housing prices.

The fruit and vegetables index rose 5.9%, adding 0.2% to the overall jump in the CPI. Fresh fruit prices soared 23.9%, with watermelons rising in price 115.8%. Prices of fresh vegetables, on the other hand, were 5.5% lower.

The clothing and footwear index increased 8.5%, yet prices in this category are still 2.4% cheaper than they were this time last year.

Given the shekel's improvement in trading against the dollar in May, the housing index dropped 1.2%, both those in rented and purchased apartments benefiting as a result.

Elsewhere, the transport and communication index also decreased - by 0.4%.

There were, however, rises in the education, culture and entertainment index (0.4%) and for foods other than fruit and vegetables (0.7%). Health costs remained constant during May.

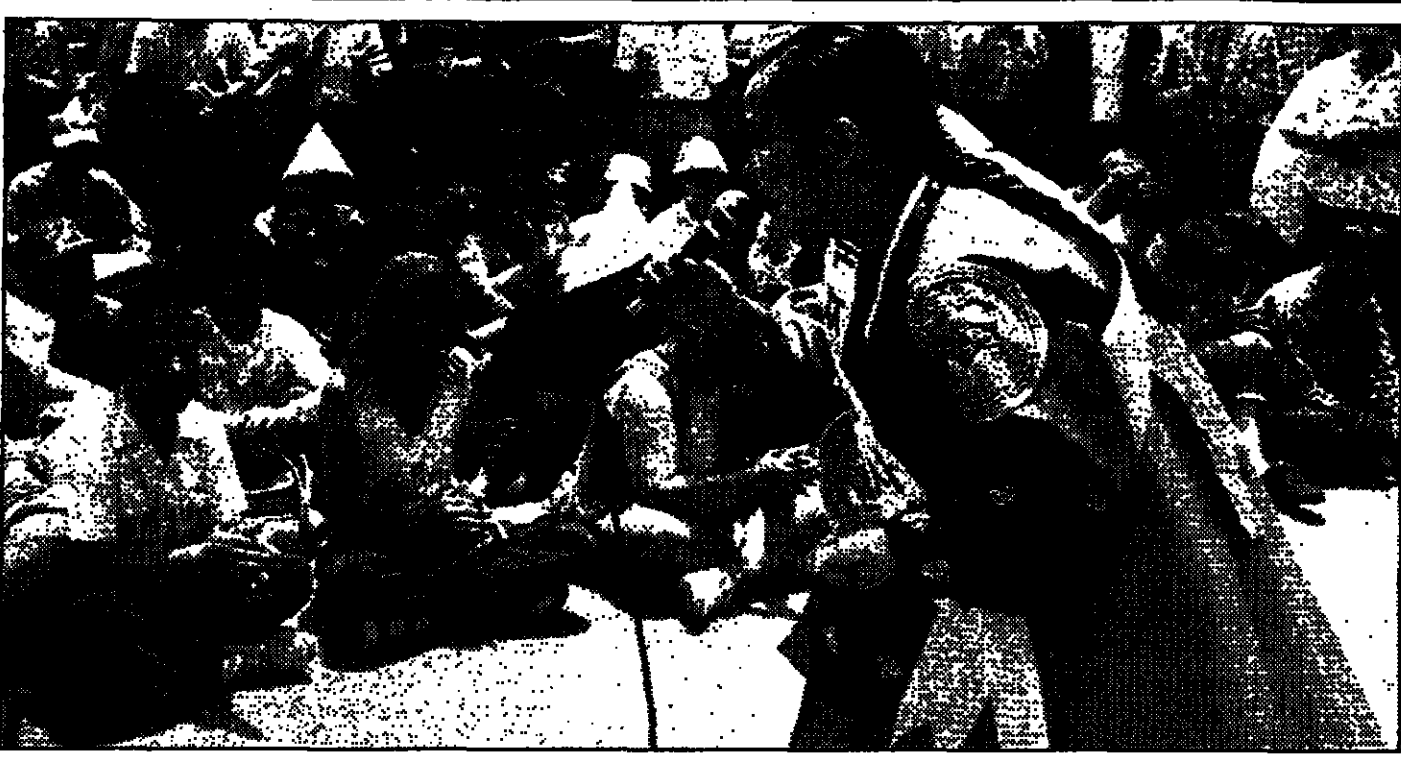
The fall in the CPI is already fuelling speculation that Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel will cut July's key lending rate.

The central bank, though, will also take into account May's money supply figures and the current crisis in Japan when it makes its decision toward the end of the month.

The jobseekers' figures suggest a stabilizing of the number of people actively seeking work last month. Once again the number of places with unemployment above 10% rose to 18 - the March level.

The Labor and Social Affairs Ministry said that there are signs of positive results where the government is targeting problems specific to a particular location.

The jobseekers total fell to 163,500 in May, 49% of whom were women.



Singing to the jobless

A South Korean singer wearing a traditional dress sings a song to comfort jobless and homeless people at the Seoul Station Plaza yesterday. The Government says unemployment will rise to 6 percent this year with nearly 2 million out of work. (AP)

Merhav, Nissho Iwai close to sealing \$400m. Turkmenistan energy deal

By DAVID HARRIS

Herzliya-based Merhav Group and the Tel Aviv office of Japanese trading company Nissho Iwai Corp. are close to securing a \$400 million contract to upgrade an oil refinery and other installations in Turkmenistan, according to sources close to the deal.

Turkmeni deal is close at hand, Nissho's Israel business development manager Shabar Meidan said the company is close to sealing several deals with Israeli firms in third countries. These projects range in value from a \$20 million communications deal to the Turkmeni refinery. Meidan said the deals - all likely to be finalized by the end of July - cover the fields of industrial operations, petrochemicals and communications and will be located in the former Soviet Union, Turkey, and Southeast Asia.

Bateman Project Holding is also bidding to construct a \$400m-\$600m. natural gas pipeline from Russia to Turkey. These two companies are also said to be close to sealing a \$200m. contract to reopen a metal's factory in Georgia, according to sources close to the deal.

These deals are in the pipeline, despite the string of financial crises that is spreading throughout the Far East and most notably of late to Japan, which is now officially in recession.

"What's happening in Japan is not affecting our business as our main activity is in the field of exports," said Meidan.

Next month some of Japan's top executives will arrive here in a delegation organized by its influential JETRO foreign trade office. Among those said to be in the party are senior managers with Mitsui, Nissho Iwai, and Fujitsu.

Merhav, meanwhile, is principally involved in overseas project development, contracting and finance. Among its leading interests are a \$1.3b. refinery in Egypt and infrastructure projects in South America.

PM gives okay to re-join EU R&D program

By NINA GILBERT

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday authorized the team negotiating for Israel's participation in the EU's Fifth Framework research and development program to initial an agreement with the EU.

Sharansky, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, and representatives from the Foreign and Science ministries, to make a decision about whether to join the program.

Netanyahu's decision to join came despite opposition from Neeman. The Treasury maintains that the economic benefit to the economy would not be enough to justify the cost of joining the program.

However, a spokesman for the Treasury said they accepted the decision of the prime minister and that Neeman agreed for the funding to be arranged.

In the discussion held yesterday, Netanyahu met with Industry and Trade Minister Natan

Sharansky. Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, and representatives from the Foreign and Science ministries, to make a decision about whether to join the program.

Netanyahu's decision to join came despite opposition from Neeman. The Treasury maintains that the economic benefit to the economy would not be enough to justify the cost of joining the program.

However, a spokesman for the Treasury said they accepted the decision of the prime minister and that Neeman agreed for the funding to be arranged.

Signs of natural gas found offshore

Large amounts of natural gas could be present just off the shoreline between Hadera and Gaza, according to the results of a seismic survey carried out by the National Infrastructure Ministry's Ocean and Lakes Research Institute.

The discovery was made while tracing sand reserves for the construction of artificial islands opposite Tel Aviv. Israel is known to have particularly small natural gas reserves, and is negotiating intensively for the purchase of natural gas from various overseas suppliers.

Ocean and Lakes Research Institute geology department manager Dr. Avraham Glick said that researchers found signs of natural gas at a depth of 40 to 60 meters between Hadera and Gaza. Further tests are to be concluded shortly. *Globes*

Bank Hapoalim workers go to five-day week

Bank Hapoalim yesterday announced its workers will move to a five-day week, while its branches will remain open six days a week.

Under the new system, branches will remain open from 8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. from Sunday to Thursday, and from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday and Thursday and on Friday from 8:30 to 12:30. Workers in the bank's management headquarters won't work on Fridays. The new arrangements take effect on Friday. *Nina Gilbert*

Sharansky: Aid for investments in PA soon

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky held talks with US Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat yesterday about intellectual property rights and economic relations with Jordan and the Palestinians.

Sharansky said he hopes that some \$50 million in trade-risk insurance for business ventures in the Palestinian Authority areas would soon be available. He said he would soon hold a meeting with his Jordanian and Palestinian counterparts for the three sides to discuss economic issues.

Eizenstat emphasized the importance of enforcing intellectual property rights laws and said by doing so Israel could get itself removed from the Priority Watch List.

Goldman Sachs to sell stock, end partnership

Goldman Sachs Group LP, the biggest and richest investment banking partnership, voted to end 129 years as a private company and sell shares to the public.

The company plans to sell a 10 percent to 15 percent stake, giving it a market value of as much as \$35 billion, more than Merrill Lynch & Co., the nation's biggest broker. Goldman, the last big Wall Street partnership, wants to sell the shares later this year, giving it stock to pay for acquisitions.

"It's one of the leading firms in the world, one of the top three," said Raphael Soifer, an analyst at Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. The company needs to sell stock, however, because "increasingly, Goldman is finding itself competing with larger firms." The decision came after a vote by Goldman's 190 partners at their annual meeting Saturday and followed a session yesterday by the firm's six-man executive committee. Partners would be worth \$76 million, on average, once the company goes public. *Bloomberg*

Northern Telecom to buy Bay Networks

Northern Telecom Ltd. agreed to buy Bay Networks Inc. for US\$9.1 billion, joining North America's second-largest telephone-equipment maker with the No. 3 maker of products to link computers to the Internet.

Northern Telecom will exchange 0.5 share for each Bay share, valuing Bay at US\$38.21 a share based on Northern Telecom's closing price Friday of 63 11/16 in New York.

The purchase gives Northern a broader line of computer-networking equipment and distribution channels as it seeks to increase its share of a fast-growing market. *Bloomberg*

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Building Blocks

By NINA GILBERT

JERUSALEM AREA

In Modi'in, second-hand apartments are becoming more desirable than those presently under construction, since the older apartments tend to be larger and in better, more developed areas, says RE/MAX. There is also a big supply of second-hand apartments, whose prices are more negotiable than those offered by contractors. Most of the demand is coming from buyers from Rishon LeZion, Lod, Ashdod and Jerusalem. The agency recently sold a five-room 128-sq.m. duplex with two porches for \$178,500 in a building with an elevator and parking. A four-room 140-sq.m. duplex with porches totaling 60 sq.m. was sold for \$187,500. A three-and-a-half-room 111-sq.m. apartment was sold for \$151,000.

On Jerusalem's Tel Hai Street, a three-room apartment on the first floor was sold for \$300,000. The 95-sq.m. apartment is in a unique building constructed during the British Mandate. The apartment was sold via the Shiran multi-listing service after four months on the market.

In Baka, on Derech Hebron, a three-room apartment on the ground floor with access to a garden was sold for \$190,000. The apartment, which has high ceilings and a storeroom, was sold after three weeks on the market.

In the past three months, the Agi building company has sold 17 out of 21 villas priced at \$320,000, for a total of \$5.4 million in a project in Ma'aleh Adumim. Most of the buyers are from within the town, according to Century 21, which is marketing the project. The 170-sq.m. homes sit on 440-sq.m. plots, and also have basements and attics.

TEL AVIV AND CENTER

A \$100m. project is being constructed between Allenby and Shenkin streets in central Tel Aviv by Oneal Construction Ltd., owned by Fishman Holdings. The Lev Ha'ir Quarter is comprised of a seven-story U-shaped building, a 24-story residential tower and a four-story office building, where the Fishman offices will be relocated. Construction

is expected to be completed in about two and a half years.

Pedestrians are to have access to an elevated garden in the center of the area, and there is also to be underground parking for the public.

In the framework of the project, the builders are to restore the adjoining Beit Berlin, a historic building built in 1925 which is to become a library and a cafe.

The architect of the project is Ada Karmi-Melamede, who designed the Supreme Court building, and landscaping is being carried out by 1998 Israel Prize winner Dan Tzur.

Prices range from about \$300,000 for two rooms to \$3m. for penthouses, with average prices per square meter at about \$4,000. Perks in the complex include an indoor swimming pool, a health club, a sun deck and a wine cellar.

An information center for home builders and renovators will be featured at the Modern Living Fair at the Tel Aviv Convention Center. The event begins tomorrow.

According to a survey conducted by the Building College, the number of home improvements are expected to be 30 percent higher this year due to the slowdown in the economy, which has resulted in a drop in the number of new apartment purchases. About 80% of the improvements are to the kitchen and bathroom and in painting. Home renovations cost an average of \$18,000 and take an average duration of 50 days to complete.

HAIFA AND NORTH

Contractors will offer discounts, special loans and mortgages at a housing fair for the northern area next Monday through Wednesday (June 22-June 24) from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Haifa International Convention Center.

Yuval Engineering has sold 38 out of the 48 cottages it is constructing in the "blue neighborhood," Neveh Yavuzim, in Yokneam, for a total of \$6.8m. The 140-sq.m. cottages all have six rooms and large gardens.

The project overlooks a panoramic green area. The homes all have blue rooftops and window frames and are priced at \$190,000.

It's official: Japan's in recession

By SANDRA SUGAWARA

TOKYO - Japan's economy is shrinking, authorities here said last week, officially confirming a recession in the world's second-largest economy.

The news shakes global hopes that Japan, Asia's one-time economic engine, soon will regain its steam after seven years of stagnation and pull other nations in the region out of their financial turmoil.

It is the first recession in 23 years here. In the first three months of this year, Japan's economy contracted sharply, at an annualized rate of 5.3 percent, the Economic Planning Agency said.

Japan's economy shrank by 0.7% for the fiscal year ended March 31, the first full-year drop since 1975.

Other signs of economic pain are abundant. Corporate bankruptcies are surging, up 37.5% in May, compared to the same month last year, according to figures released Friday by Teikoku Databank research group.

The yen, which had already lost 40% of its value in the past three years, slid sharply, ending the week at 144.72 yen to the dollar.

Stock and currency markets across Asia have been hit hard. South Korea's stock market, for example, dropped 8.4% today, its lowest level in 11 years.

Japan's unemployment rate has hit 4.1%, just a hair below the US rate of 4.3%, a startling reality in a country where lifelong employment has been the rule.

Indeed, the unemployment rate among adult males in Japan is higher than that of adult males in the United States.

"This shows unemployment in Japan is getting very serious, and I expect it to continue to get worse," said Robert Alan Feldman, an economist from Morgan Stanley.

Japan's deepening economic funk is straining already fragile financial structures and increasingly hurting ordinary people's lives.

"This is very difficult," sighed a 51-year-old architect as he flipped through the folders in a Tokyo unemployment office. Neatly dressed in a gray suit and polished black shoes, he wearily surveyed the jobs available: cooks, delivery man.

More than two months ago, the construction-materials company where he worked as a researcher told him to take early retirement along with hundreds of his colleagues. In the past, the company had kept employees, even when it had suffered losses, said the architect, who would give only his first name, Kazuo. "A few years ago, it never occurred to me this could happen," he said quietly.

Personal bankruptcies may top 100,000 by the end of this year, if filings continue at their current pace, up from 70,000 last year.

Bankruptcy attorney Kenji Utsunomiya, working late in his office Friday night, said he's been swamped with phone calls



A back-breaking day at the office: A trader stretches his colleague's neck on Friday as the Tokyo Stock Exchange wrapped up another turbulent week of trading. (AP)

and visits from bleary-eyed, exhausted people who cannot pay their debts.

Utsunomiya hired a new attorney and two part-time assistants to handle the increase in cases. In the past, most clients were poor, he said, but now he's getting many from the middle class.

"Sometimes they come in and their entire family looks like they are suffering a nervous breakdown," Utsunomiya said. Suicides here jumped 18% last year compared to the year before, to 3,556, the National Police Agency reported.

Last summer, the suffering caused by the Asian crisis was largely confined to the financial elite in nations with much smaller economies, such as South Korea and Indonesia. Southeast Asian tycoons watched stock-market fortunes shrink.

High rolling stockbrokers in Thailand auctioned off their Mercedes and condos. South Korean bankers worried about losing their jobs.

Now the turmoil is more widely felt and

is finally sinking in on those in Japan. Nowhere is the worry deeper than in the banking industry.

Analysts estimate banks already have roughly \$600 billion in bad loans on their books. The worsening economy means "that debts are accumulating faster than banks can write them down," said Matthew Poggi, an economist with Lehman Brothers.

Taku Yamasaki, the policy chief of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, recently declared that there will be no bank failures in the short term. But financial markets in Japan and elsewhere in Asia remain jittery. Ratings agencies continue to downgrade the credit quality of Japan's banks.

Nippon Credit Bank had to take the unusual step of asking life insurance companies that supply much of its working capital to ease terms on their loans. Some life insurers agreed, but a few rejected the request.

Another bank thought to be having

financial troubles, Long-Term Credit Bank, said it plans during the next two years to "reconsider" unprofitable corporate loans it has made for 2,500 of its borrowers - about one-third of its corporate clients - meaning it probably will try to call in the loans and refuse to make new ones.

Japan's economy is twice as large as the rest of Asia combined, so its problems have reverberated through the rest of the region.

Countries such as Thailand and South Korea hoped to export products to Japan, raising cash to grow their way out of their economic troubles. But Japanese imports from Asia were down by 14% in the first three months of this year, according to Andy Xie, a Hong Kong-based economist with Morgan Stanley.

Furthermore, Japanese banks, the largest source of foreign capital in the rest of Asia, have been pulling back at a time when other Asian banks are too weak to lend, say analysts.

The result has been a downward spiral unimaginable only a year ago.

In South Korea, decades of robust growth had produced a large, educated middle class of people who bought gourmet food and designer clothes.

Now homeless people congregate in parks. Crime has risen and about 25 people a day commit suicide, mostly because of economic problems, according to prosecutors there. The country has been torn apart by strikes and a battle to close down the unprofitable subsidiaries of the chaebols, the large family-run conglomerates that have dominated South Korea's business.

In Thailand, the unemployment rate could top 7.3%, according to the Japan Research Institute. The government is planning to set up dozens of soup kitchens throughout Bangkok to feed the unemployed.

Tens of thousands of struggling and angry farmers are expected to descend on Bangkok on June 24 to demand that the government agree to a moratorium on debts to the agricultural bank and coops. Companies large and small say they are unable to pay the soaring interest rates on loans.

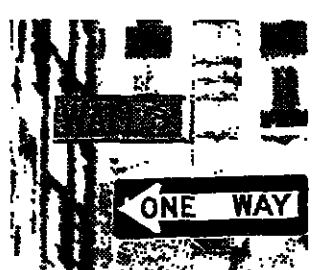
In Indonesia, long-time President Suharto was forced out of office, in part because of the economic unrest. Student protests continue, with the unemployment rate expected to soar to 13.2% and the economy expected to contract by about 15% this year.

Attacks on ethnic Chinese, who control much of the country's commerce, and efforts to dismantle the empire of the Suharto family mean that social and economic turmoil could continue for years.

Hong Kong has also been hit. Financial institutions, real-estate companies and restaurants have gone bankrupt. Banks have had to maintain high interest rates to keep money from fleeing overseas. (Washington Post)

European shares: No longer a contrarian bet

Wall Street Tips



By James K. Glassman

If you're impressed with the US stock market, you obviously haven't looked at Europe lately. Over the past 12 months, the Bloomberg European 500 index, which tracks the largest stocks on the continent, has risen a stunning 86%. By contrast, the Standard & Poor's 500 index, the US equivalent, is up 29%.

Italy's Milan MIB 30 Index has returned 98% in the past year, compared with 21% for our Dow Jones industrial average.

The most popular German average, the DAX, is up 37% (in dollar terms) since the start of 1998, compared with just 13% for the Dow.

The France Growth Fund, a closed-end fund that holds a portfolio of large French companies and trades on the New York Stock Exchange, has risen 43% this year. Meanwhile, the leading index in the Netherlands has returned 31%; Belgium, 38%; Sweden, 30%.

The only relative laggard is Britain, but it's still running ahead of the Dow this year and beat the US market in 1997 by five percentage points.

In a column almost exactly a year ago, I called Europe a "good continent for a contrarian bet," arguing that, despite high unemployment and other economic woes, the continent's stocks appeared poised to rise.

Europe has indeed been a good bet, but for how much longer? Now, after spectacular gains, can Europe continue to rise? Arthur Lerner of Arnhold & S. Bleichroeder, Inc., the venerable New York investment firm, certainly thinks so.

Lerner manages the First Eagle International Fund, whose mandate is to find great companies around the world, including the US. Currently, First Eagle has

90% of its assets in the stocks of European countries.

"This is the most highly concentrated we've ever been in Europe," says Lerner, a 25-year veteran of global investing who also runs an offshore hedge fund for very rich folks. He owns only a few US stocks and none at all in Asia.

Why Europe? "Liquidity," he says. This is financial jargon for cash. What Lerner means is that Europeans are using their money to buy stocks instead of putting it into real estate, bonds or savings accounts - or purchasing cars or clothes.

What's the new appeal of stocks? "People are realizing that their governments can no longer cradle-to-grave them," Lerner says, inventing a new verb. "And a 3% or 4% bond won't cut it."

In other words, like Americans, more and more Europeans are recognizing that their version of Social Security won't provide them with a secure retirement. They need to invest on their own, and, with bond returns low, stocks are the obvious choice.

Also like Americans, Europeans have begun to lose their almost irrational fear of stocks. They are catching on to the fact that equities have been producing strong returns, at relatively low risk, over a long period.

From 1969 to 1997, for example, the Morgan Stanley Europe Index has been rising at an average annual rate of 14.9%, compared with 13.9% for the MS North America Index. European stocks are more volatile than American (that is, their ups and downs are sharper), but not by much.

In fact, over the past 15 years, the MS Europe Index has produced better returns than any major index in the world, according to the Chase Investment Performance Digest. It also ranks second, behind the London Exchange index, over 25 years.

"I don't see why this can't continue," says Lerner - and he's not alone in his bullishness.

"The case for investing in Europe remains strong," Robert Carlson, who chairs the Fairfax County (Virginia) Supplemental Retirement System, recently wrote subscribers to his excellent *Retirement Watch* newsletter. "European interest rates are low and continue to fall as the conti-

nent moves toward a common currency. Many companies in Europe are boosting productivity and actively trying to increase their stock values. In addition, government deficits are falling, and regulations slowly are being eased."

That's a good summary of the fundamentals that are on Europe's side. While the introduction of the euro, which will be phased in as the currency of 11 European countries (though not Britain, Greece, Switzerland, Sweden or Denmark) between 1999 and 2002, is controversial, I'm convinced it will be a boon - and, more important, so are the markets.

"Essentially," says David Malpass, top international strategist for Bear, Stearns & Co., "the continent is adopting the D-mark and getting German interest rates."

Thanks to the euro, even Italy, despite its reputation for loose fiscal policies, enjoys long-term government bond yields that are lower than those in the US. Rates on corporate bonds in France are more than one and one-half percentage points below ours.

But the biggest change is happening within European companies themselves. They are going through the same restructuring process that made US companies leaner, more flexible, more profitable and more investor-friendly. And they are consolidating across the European Union - and the world. Europe is about 10 years behind the US in making firms more productive, but that's simply a good reason to buy the continent's stocks now and hold them for at least a decade.

STILL, Europe has economic problems. While Germany, France and Italy expect to grow between 2.5% and 3.0% this year and next, unemployment remains above 11% in all three countries, compared with 4.3% in the US. Heavy regulations, taxes and labor rules thwart entrepreneurs and prevent skilled workers from moving to sectors where they're most needed. Meanwhile, France has elected a socialist government that's proved anti-business, and Germany may do the same this fall.

Many European firms have figured out ways to circumvent this burdensome system, but, in general, the case for continental stocks,

as I wrote a year ago, requires a combination of optimism and economic determinism: "France and Germany, especially, are going to be dragged, kicking and screaming, into the 21st century, whether they like it or not."

Since that column, I have taken two trips to Europe that reinforce this assessment, but not everyone shares my optimism.

For example, David G. Muller, Jr., editor of *Foreign Markets Advisory* newsletter in Fairfax Station, Va., recently wrote, "The breathtaking rise in the markets of Western Europe is a classic bubble. Stocks are at or above all-time record valuations while earnings

BOSTON - Oil stocks are unpopular today, with crude oil prices down in the scary zone around \$13 a barrel. That's why this is a good time to buy.

In saying this, I'm not a disinterested party. My firm has a sizable holding in big oil stocks such as Amoco Corp., Atlantic Richfield Co. and Texaco Inc. We also bought some oil-service companies this year.

While I may not be objective, I believe I'm right. Today's oil-price weakness isn't unprecedented. In the past 12 years, there were four previous times when oil prices dipped below \$15 a barrel. They were the full year of 1986, a five-month period from August through December of 1988, the month of June 1990 and a five-month period from December 1993 through April 1994.

I think that this latest spell of price weakness, too, shall pass.

Oil prices were in the range of \$20 to \$22 a barrel when the Asian economic crisis erupted in October. They fell rapidly and steadily until March, when they dropped below \$15. Since then, they have been crisscrossing the \$15 line. In the past couple of days, they have approached the \$13 level.

Past periods of price weakness were a great time to buy oil-service stocks, and not a bad time to buy the big, integrated oil companies: Exxon Corp., Royal Dutch Petroleum Co., Mobil Corp., Chevron Corp., Amoco and Texaco.

Simmons & Co. International is a small brokerage house in Houston that specializes in oil-

outlooks are pedestrian....

The market rise is unsustainable, with sharp corrections no doubt in store."

If you're more sanguine about Europe, consider some of the stocks that Lerner has been buying. One is Wolters Kluwer, N.V., a huge Dutch specialty publisher (the company owns, among other things, US-based Commerce Clearing House, which puts out tax books) whose dividends have been growing at 15% annually for the past five years. The stock trades as an American Depositary Receipt (ADR) on the New York Exchange under the symbol WTKWY.

Time for oil?

Oil-service stocks got clobbered when oil prices are weak because people fear that oil producers will slash their exploration and production budgets. Buying these stocks on weakness may be a great long-term move, though in today's climate hardly anyone dares to do it.

Stocks of big integrated oil companies don't rally as dramatically, but then these companies are steadier on the downside. Because they refine and market oil products, as well as explore for oil and produce it, the big integrated oils are only moderately sensitive to the price of oil.

What I like about the big, integrated oils is that they would probably be bastions of strength, compared with most stocks, in a market decline. Their dividend yields, while unimpressive by the standards of the past, look big by comparison to today's puny average of

Lerner's single largest holding is Volkswagen, A.G., another ADR that can be purchased easily by US investors. A good example of a company that has restructured and repositioned, it's up 70% since January, and Lerner remains enthusiastic.

Other German stocks that he owns and that trade as ADRs: Adidas, A.G., the sportswear maker, with a price-to-earnings ratio, based on estimated profits this year, of just 10, and Daimler-Benz, A.G., which is merging with Chrysler Corp.

Lerner is especially high on Italy, where, he says, "the goal posts are finally lined up." In other words, the euro is enforcing stability. Italy is a particularly good liquidity play: "It's a wealthy country with a lot in the mattress."

He has been buying financial stocks like Banco di Napoli and Credito Italiano, but another approach would be simply to purchase shares in the closed-end Italy Fund (ITA), which trades on the New York exchange and has returned 38% so far this year. Top holding for the fund is Telecom Italia, SpA, which has tripled in the past two and a half years.

(Washington Post)

The writer is a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

of research at Simmons, said there has been no big buildup. Oil inventories can be measured pretty precisely, he said, and they are up only 66 million barrels in the past four quarters in the major industrial countries. That's far less than many supply-and-demand estimates suggest should be accumulating.

Pickering suspects that the supply-and-demand estimates are too gloomy. "You hear that anticipated weak demand from Asia explains the big decline in oil prices since October. Really? Asia, and the Pacific region (including Japan and China) use about 20 million barrels a day, or about 27% of the world's total. So if Asian demand fell 10%, it would 'nuk' total world demand by about 2.7%."

Does that explain a 30% drop in oil prices? Only when you sit in a large dose of investor psychology.

By the way, Goldman Sachs & Co. estimates that Asian oil consumption will actually increase a bit in 1998, despite the economic crisis. Many of the things people use oil for - home heating and power generation, for example - are not highly discretionary.

As for supply, the once-feared Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is now regarded as a toothless tiger. I think people may be underestimating OPEC's power today, just as they greatly overestimated it 20 years ago. - John Dorfman (Bloomberg)

The writer is a Boston-based money manager with Drenan Value Management LLC in Red Bank, New Jersey.

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LEADING SHARES

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L CAPITALIZATION

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LAST CHANCE

NASDAQ

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Associates	2.25	+0

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NYSE

S&P Communications	13.3125	-2.125
Israel Fund	13.875	+0
Israel Economic Corp	22.25	-0.4375
Israelor	24.5	-0.875
Israel Nutra Inc	16	-0.375
Israel Sol Ltd	16.1875	-0.5625
Israel Star	32.8125	-1.6875
Israel Ltd	22.5625	-0.3125

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an Advanced	161	+0
atek Ltd	19.5	-0
Interactive Media		
at	51.5	-3
EA, Multimedia	4.5	+0
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SHARES[illegible]

Graf seeded fourth for Wimbledon

LONDON (Reuters) - Former world No. 1 Steffi Graf was seeded fourth for Wimbledon yesterday despite an injury-plagued season that has seen her plunge down the rankings.

Graf, back in action at Edgbaston last week after suffering a hamstring injury in March, has been given a special rating of number three in the world by the Women's Tennis Association to protect her seeding in tournaments.

Officially now ranked 91st, Graf will be bidding for her eighth Wimbledon singles title and 22nd Grand Slam victory when the championships start next Monday.

The German is seeded behind world No. 1 Martina Hingis, Lindsay Davenport and Jana Novotna, but ahead of French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, seeded five, and her old rival Monica Seles, six.

Pete Sampras, winner of four Wimbledon titles in five years, heads the men's seedings.

French Open champion Carlos Moya is fifth while the resurgent

Andre Agassi creeps in at No. 13. Men's seedings: 1. Pete Sampras (US) 2. Marcelo Rios (Chile) 3. Petr Korda (Czech Republic) 4. Greg Rusedski (Britain) 5. Carlos Moya (Spain) 6. Patrick Rafter (Australia) 7. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Russia) 8. Cedric Pioline (France) 9. Richard Krajicek (Netherlands) 10. Alex Corretja (Spain) 11. Jonas Bjorkman (Sweden) 12. Tim Henman (Britain) 13. Andre Agassi (US) 14. Goran Ivanisevic (Croatia) 15. Karol Kucera (Slovakia) 16. Felix Mantilla (Spain).

Women's seedings: 1. Martina Hingis (Switzerland) 2. Lindsay Davenport (US) 3. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic) 4. Steffi Graf (Germany) 5. Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario (Spain) 6. Monica Seles (US) 7. Venus Williams (US) 8. Conchita Martinez (Spain) 9. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa) 10. Irina Spirlea (Romania) 11. Mary Pierce (France) 12. Anna Kournikova (Russia) 13. Patty Schnyder (Switzerland) 14. Sandrine Testud (France) 15. Dominique van Roost (Belgium) 16. Nathalie Tauziat (France).

Play abandoned at Edgbaston women's tennis tourney

BIRMINGHAM (Reuters) - Steffi Graf's bid for a title in her first event after returning from injury ended when play at the Edgbaston Classic was abandoned yesterday.

An inspection of the courts at the Edgbaston Club deemed them unplayable after adverse conditions all weekend.

Graf, continuing her comeback after injury and playing with her left knee and thigh strapped, had trailed France's Nathalie Tauziat 3-0 in the opening set of their semifinal when the rain returned on Sunday, her 29th birthday.

"It is disappointing the weather hasn't changed," Graf said yesterday. "It is frustrating for the players and equally frustrating for the fans. We all tried to make the best out of the weather." The players had warmed up for the match on Saturday before it was decided the court was too wet and dangerous for play.

It was decided on Sunday that play would be held over until Monday because of a favorable weather forecast, but the courts were too wet.

A move indoors to hard courts was considered but rejected with the players deciding it was better to abandon play in Birmingham and move on to Eastbourne for this week's final pre-Wimbledon event.

The other semifinal also held over was to have been between Elena Likhovtseva of Russia and Indonesian Yayuk Basuki. If Graf, who sustained a hamstring injury in her last tournament in March, had won the title she would have returned to the world rankings at number 60.



German captain Jurgen Klinsmann (center) congratulates teammate Andy Moller after Moller scored Germany's first goal in the 2-0 win over the USA. No. 4 is Jurgen Kohler. (Reuters)

HODDLE

Continued from Page 20

After this England slowly raised the tempo on an afternoon of African drums, blue skies and a breezy Mistral, Campbell and Scholes frequently triggering their best attacks.

Scholes had a header well-parried by goalkeeper Chokri El Ouer, Teddy Sheringham saw a well-struck volley palmed on to the bar and Scholes, again, forced a one-handed save with a header before Shearer struck to set up the victory.

Germans begin with workmanlike 2-0 victory

In Paris, European champions Germany made a confident start to their campaign with a workmanlike but far from stylish 2-0 victory over the USA in their opening group F clash.

A first-half headed goal from midfielder Andy Moeller and a well-taken strike from captain Jurgen Klinsmann in the 66th minute earned three points for one of the most experienced teams in the tournament.

It was a long way from being a polished performance from the European champions but that will not have mattered to coach Bert Vogts who wanted a winning start in the group with a clash against the

strong Yugoslavs ahead.

The Germans have often made disappointing starts to World Cups in the past before gaining in confidence as tournaments have progressed. But this time Vogts' team, with an average age of nearly 30, started with a bang.

Moeller took his chance superbly in the ninth minute after an Olaf Thon corner from the left was headed across the goal by Klinsmann and the midfielder guided the ball inside the left-hand post with his head.

Klinsmann scored his ninth World Cup goal and he became the 17th player to score in three World Cups.

Great life goal gives Romania 1-0 win

In Lyon, an outstanding goal from striker Adrian Ilie in the 45th minute gave Romania a deserved 1-0 victory over Colombia in a group G match.

Romania looked the sharper side throughout the game and their slick passing was reminiscent of their sparkling displays at USA '94. Ilie's goal crowned an excellent individual display.

Seconds before halftime he sprinted down the left, beat one defender as he ran into the Colombian area and struck the ball with the outside of his right boot over advancing Colombian goalkeeper Farid Mondragon.

GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Morocco	2	0	0	1	1	2	0
Norway	3	0	0	1	1	2	0
Scotland	4	0	0	1	1	2	0
GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Chile	2	0	0	1	1	1	0
Cameroon	3	0	0	1	1	1	0
Austria	4	0	0	1	1	1	0
GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Denmark	2	0	0	1	1	1	0
Saudi Arabia	3	0	0	1	1	1	0
South Africa	4	0	0	1	1	1	0
GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nigeria	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Paraguay	2	0	0	1	1	1	0
Spain	3	0	0	1	1	1	0
GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Netherlands	2	0	0	1	1	1	0
Belgium	3	0	0	1	1	1	0
South Korea	4	0	0	1	1	1	0
GROUP F	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Yugoslavia	2	0	0	1	1	1	0
USA	3	0	0	1	1	1	0
GROUP G	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Romania	2	0	0	1	1	1	0
Colombia	3	0	0	1	1	1	0
Tunisia	4	0	0	1	1	1	0
GROUP H	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Argentina	2	0	0	1	1	1	0
Japan	3	0	0	1	1	1	0
Jamaica	4	0	0	1	1	1	0

SPORTS

in brief

ITF to vote on abolition of let rule

LONDON (Reuters) - The International Tennis Federation (ITF) will vote next month on a proposal to abolish the let rule from the start of next year.

ITF communications manager Alun James said yesterday the proposal would be put before the federation's annual general meeting in Killarney, Ireland, in the week starting July 6.

James said a survey of 715 matches showed there had been an average of only 4.1 lets a match.

"Abolishing lets would reduce interruptions and make games more continuous," he said. "It would lessen disputes between players and between players and officials."

Tournaments would also save money by not employing an extra net official. James said abolishing lets would be the first significant rule change since tie-breaks were introduced 25 years ago.

He said the ITF would also vote on an experimental proposal to dispense with the advantage rule in lower divisions of the Davis Cup and in some junior tournaments.

Lomu confirmed for England Test

DUNEDIN, New Zealand (AP) - Jonah Lomu has been confirmed in the All Blacks team to play the first rugby union test against England at Carisbrook on Saturday.

"We were pleased with him, he did what was required of him on Saturday, so he'll get to start the game," New Zealand coach John Hart said yesterday.

Lomu was bracketed with fellow Counties-Manukau winger Joeli Vidiri when the test side was announced last week. He passed his fitness and form trial with a strong performance in New Zealand A's 18-10 win over England at Hamilton.

Center Walter Little is the only New Zealand injury concern. He is expected to train today to prove his foot injury won't trouble him on Saturday.

UK jury sent home to watch match

LONDON (Reuters) - A British judge delighted a jury trying to reach a verdict in a complicated fraud case yesterday, sending them home to watch England's first World Cup soccer match.

Judge Mota Singh summoned the jury at lunchtime and told them to go and watch the afternoon game, in which England beat Tunisia 2-0. "I expect your minds are on football," Singh told the eight men and four women, who began considering their verdicts on Friday morning after listening to eight weeks of evidence.

Festival to be postponed over hooligan fears

TOULOUSE (Reuters) - The mayor of Toulouse yesterday urged the postponement of an annual music festival planned for the eve of an England World Cup match for fear that hooligans would riot as they did in Marseille.

Mayor Dominique Baudis said he had asked the prefect of the Midi-Pyrenees region to move the annual June 21 Festival of Music because of the fans likely to turn up for England's match against Romania the next day.

Toulouse's Festival of Music consists of free open-air concerts, mostly of rock music, all over the city.

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Tel Aviv and Haifa - weekdays: 12 noon, 3 days before publication; for Friday and Sunday 4 p.m. Thursday in Tel Aviv and 12 noon Thursday in Haifa.</p> <p>For classified enquiries please call 02-5315644.</p>	<h3>DWELLINGS</h3> <p>Jerusalem Area</p> <h4>RENTALS/SALES</h4> <p>BUSINESSMEN AND VISITORS seek sales / rentals / APOSTLE HOUSING. Fax: 0031-251-250305 (Netherlands). [723204]</p> <h4>RENTALS</h4> <p>REHABA, 2.5, RENOVATED, completely furnished, air-conditioned, long-term, \$ 850. Tel. 02-561-1217. [723241]</p> <h4>SALES</h4> <p>habitat real estate Jerusalem quality sales & rentals in all areas - ask Mayir Tel: (02) 56 11 222 fax: (02) 56 11 178 Email: portico@netvision.net.il</p>	<h3>DWELLINGS</h3> <p>Sharon Area</p> <h4>RENTALS</h4> <p>HERZLIYA PITUAH, 5 bedroom house. Lovely living-dining room. Long lease. MORAN REAL ESTATE. Tel. 09-957-2758. 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[72540]</p> <h4>MITSUBISHI SUPER LANCER GLI,</h4> <p>1995, auto, AC, alarm, immobilizer, radio-tape, VGC, test till September. Tel. 02-673-2791. [72585]</p> <h4>OPEL ASTRA, 1997, automatic, 13,000 km., 2 years remain on warranty. Excellent condition. Priced to sell. Tel. 02-651-9141. [72616] <h4>HONDA CIVIC, 1997, automatic,</h4> <p>13,000 km., electric doors / windows / antennae. Kenwood CD changer / tape. NIS 50,950. Tel. 02-622-2836. [72583]</p> <h4>DAEWOO SUPER RACER, 1996,</h4> <p>super condition, one owner, air-conditioning, radio-cassette. Tel. 02-673-5275. [72541]</p> <h4>UNRESTRICTED</h4> <p>MAZDA GLX, 1997, automatic, metallic, fully equipped, alarm, immobilizer, radio-tape. Tel. 052-873-317 [72323]</p> </h4>	<h3>VEHICLES</h3> <p>Jerusalem</p> <p>SUBARU LEGACY, 1992. Full automatic, great body, new tires, brakes, exhaust, all securities, leaving country available July. NIS 500 below "Blue Book". Tel. 02-652-0544. 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Any-time-day. [72330]</p>	<h3>VEHICLES</h3> <p>Tel Aviv</p> <p>SAAB 900 AUTOMATIC, 1900 power / windows/sunroof/door/steering/air/radio/cassette, alloy wheels. As new condition. \$4,900. Mark. Tel. 052-214-262, any-time-day. [72331]</p> <h4>UNRESTRICTED</h4> <p>1997 VW POLO, navy blue metallic, 23,000 km., 1.4 L engine, auto., AC, dual air bags, ABS, one owner, non-smoker, cassette deck. Tel. 09-832-2071. [72594]</p> <h4>VEHICLES</h4> <p>Sharon Area</p> <h4>PASSPORT</h4> <p>OPPORTUNITY, 1996, NEON CHRYSLER, full equipped, first hand, 35,000km, like new, (also for tourist) direct from owner. Tel. 052-924-457 [72540]</p> <p>I'M BUYING AND selling tax free cars, tourist, oled, U.N. Also unrestricted cars "trade in", will travel anywhere, cash paid, shipping 2 ways free. Colin. Tel. 03-742-9517, 052-423-327 [72593]</p> <p>1991, FORD SABLE station, 7 seats, automatic, power steering, air-conditioning, electric windows and seats, roof rack, mag wheels, dark blue, cheap price. Colin. Tel. 09-742-9517, 052-423-327 [72593]</p> <p>1992 GOLF GTI, white, 4 door, automatic, power steering, air-conditioning, radio-tape, mag wheels, 40,000 km., shipping 2 ways, priced to sell. Colin. Tel. 02-742-9517, 052-423-327 [72593]</p>	<h3>VEHICLES</h3> <p>Sharon Area</p> <p>OLEH - OLEH ONLY. 1995 Peugeot 205 Forever, white, 4 door, 38,000 km., 5 speed, AC, 4 door lock, electric windows, mag wheels, radio-tape, alarm, NIS 27,000. Colin. Tel/Fax: 09-742-9517, Tel. 052-423-327. [72342]</p> <h4>TOURIST ONLY! 1996, Hyundai Lant</h4> <p>tra GLS, metallic grey, manual, 41,000 km., petrol, aircon, ABS, 2 air bags. A give away price \$3,500, includes shipping 2 ways. COLIN. Tel/Fax: 09-742-9517, Tel. 052-423-327. [72595]</p> <h4>UNRESTRICTED</h4> <p>1993 FIAT UNO, air, white, excellent condition, \$5900 a.b.a. Tel. 09-741-4188 [72347]</p> <p>OPPORTUNITY, 1996, NEON CHRYSLER, full equipped, first hand, 35,000km, like new, (also for tourist) direct from owner. Tel. 052-924-457 [72540]</p>
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national Ltd

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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Walsh sends Lara crashing

LONDON (Reuters) - Courtney Walsh dealt Brian Lara, his successor as West Indies captain, a fresh blow as Warwickshire skipper yesterday.

Walsh took six for 65 - a 12-wicket match haul - in a commanding 170 runs victory by Gloucestershire at Bristol.

It was the fourth defeat in the last five matches for Lara's county, once widely regarded as likely champions.

Lancashire beat Somerset by nine runs at Old Trafford after a defiant eighth wicket stand between Marcus Trescothick (73 not out) and Graham Rose (56).

Leicestershire failed to claim victory over bottom county Essex, despite enforcing the follow-on at Chelmsford.

Hampshire, last but one, held on for a draw with Yorkshire at Headingley. Worcestershire's Australian captain Tom Moody hit an unbeaten 104 to give reigning champions Glamorgan a 282 target at Cardiff. The Welsh county made a spirited attempt, with opener Steve James cracking 152, but finished on 268 for eight.

County Championship

County	P	W	L	D	pts
Surrey	7	4	1	2	24
Yorkshire	6	3	2	1	21
Gloucestershire	6	3	2	1	21
Warwickshire	6	3	2	1	21
Leicestershire	6	3	2	1	21
Nottinghamshire	6	3	2	1	21
Derbyshire	6	3	2	1	21
Worcestershire	6	3	2	1	21
Essex	6	3	2	1	21
Hampshire	6	3	2	1	21
Gloucestershire	6	3	2	1	21
Warwickshire	6	3	2	1	21
Leicestershire	6	3	2	1	21
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